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THE
CLERGYMAN'S
COMPANION
IN
VISITING the SICK.

BEING
A COLLECTION of the following
Particulars for that Purpose;

VIZ.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| I. The Manner of Visiting
the Sick ; extracted chiefly
from Bishop Taylor. | { | IV. Some other Prayers and
Forms, with a very great Va-
riety of Occasional Prayers for
the Sick ; Collected, for the
most part, from the Devotional
Writings of some of the most
eminent Divines of the Church
of England. |
| II. The Order for Visitation
of the Sick, out of the Com-
mon-Prayer-Book. | | |
| III. The Communion of the
Sick. | | |

To which are annex'd,
The Offices of Publick and Private Baptism.

The FOURTH EDITION, Improv'd and Corrected.

*Is any Sick among you ? Let him call for the Elders of the
Church, and let them pray over him, St. James, v. 14.*

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. and B. SPRINT, and A. WARD, in Little-
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and T. COMBES, in Pater-Noster-Row. MDCCXXIII.



TO HIS GRACE

THE MOST REVEREND FATHER IN GOD

THOMAS,

LORD ARCH-BISHOP

OF

CANTERBURY;

*Primate of all England, and
Metropolitan, &c.*

May it please your Grace,

THAT especial Regard which
is due to *Your Grace*, as *Head*
of the *Sacred Order* to whom
my *Labours* are here submitted; and

The Dedication.

that truly Apostolical Example of the First Christian Piety and Charity, which Your Grace has so long set in the highest Station of the Church, are the Motives, which at first, embolden'd me to inscribe these Papers to Your Grace's Name.

Longer Time, and maturer Thinking have shew'd me how imperfect they were; and I could not, with any Sense of Duty, or Manners, bespeak the Candor of my Brethren, upon that Account, and not, at the same Time, ask Pardon of that Most Reverend Primate, under whose Protection I had placed this little Work, which needs so much Apology.

Much Apology, I mean, in behalf of the Compiler, but not, as I humbly conceive, for the Usefulness of the Design, nor for the Materials

out

The Dedication.

out of which *this Piece* is chiefly compos'd.

There is no *Care* more deeply *Incumbent* upon Us, than to deal *faithfully* and *charitably* with Souls which are upon the *Wing* for *Eternity*: And as it requires the *utmost Christian Skill*, to make the Sick Man depart, not in *Phantastick*, but in *Solid Peace*; not in *Vain*, but in *Sure and Certain Hope*; so I have taken *Care* to furnish *Materials* for this *Good Work*, either out of the *Liturgy*, or *unexceptionable Fathers* or *Writers* of our *most Excellent Church*.

I have now set my *last Hand* to these Papers, and beg Leave still to lay them under the *Protection* of *Your Grace's Patronage*; beseeching *Your Grace*, to pardon the *Dedicator's Presumption*, for the Sake of

The Dedication.

*that Good at which he aims ; and
praying, That God would Crown
Your Grace with all Temporal and
Eternal Blessings.*

I am,

May it please Your Grace,

Your Grace's most Obedient Son,

and most Humble Servant,

6 JY 59

J. W.

THE

T H E

P R E F A C E.

AS this Collection hath been so well accepted of, as to pass through so many Editions, I think it needless to take any further Notice of some Objections heretofore (of no great Weight) against it.

I am not insensible, that a Work of this Kind should much rather have been the Product of a Publick than a Private Hand: But as none appear'd to do it; as there seem'd to most to be a general want of it, and as that want, I thought, might in a great Measure be supplied by a proper Collection of fit Materials, from the Writings of some of our most Eminent Divines, I thought I might safely undertake it, for the Benefit of my self and others; especially too, since the 67th Canon of our Church seem'd to give me full Liberty so to do.

The P R E F A C E.

Upon these Motives, and with this View I first set about it, and have done the best I can to bring it to Perfection; short indeed of what an abler Hand might have performed, and imperfect still, I fear, after all my Care; but nevertheless, as I had none but good and justifiable Ends in it, I humbly presume I shall the more easily be forgiven its lesser Imperfection, for the Sake of that greater Good, which is intended by the Whole.

Such as are desirous of seeing more upon this Subject, may consult Dr. Stern, De Visitatione Infirmorum, Mr. Kettlewell's Trial and Judgment of the Soul in Sicknes, The Sick Man visited, &c.

The reason of my annexing the Offices of Baptism, so foreign to the rest of the Matter, I must own to be purely from the Request of some who thought, if they were Printed in so fair a Character, in a Book so frequently made Use of, they might be serviceable to many in some particular Cases, and of no ill consequence (as far as they or I could apprehend) in any: For though it hath been objected that this might open a gap for too great a Liberty of baptizing in Private, yet I can't see how Occasion can be given or taken for it from hence, any more than from their being in the Communion-

Book:

The P R E F A C E.

Book : *The same Obligation, which lays a Restraint upon us in one Place, must do it also in another, and I presume no Clergyman will take the Liberty of baptizing privately, but upon a just Occasion.*

The LXVIIth C A N O N.

Ministers to visit the Sick.

WHEN any Person is dangerously sick in any Parish, the Minister or Curate, having Knowledge thereof, shall resort unto *him* or *her*, (if the Disease be not known, or probably suspected to be infectious) to instruct and comfort them in their Distress, according to the Order of the Communion, if he be no Preacher; or if he be a Preacher, then as he shall think most needful and convenient, &c.

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6 JY 59

The

The Manner of Visiting the Sick: Or, The Assistance that is to be given to Sick and Dying Persons by the Ministry of the Clergy.

S E C T. I.

IN all the Days of our Spiritual Warfare, from our Baptism to our Burial, God hath appointed his Servants, the Ministers of the Church, to supply the Necessities of the People, by Ecclesiastical Duties: And prudently to guide, and carefully to Judge concerning Souls committed to their Charge.

And therefore they, who all their Lifetime derive Blessings from the Fountain of Grace, by the Channels of Ecclesiastical Ministries, ought then more-especially to do it, in the Time of their Sickness, when their Needs are more prevalent, according to that known Apostolical Injunction, *Is any Man sick among you, let him send for the Elders of the Church, and let them pray over him, &c.*

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2 *The Manner of Visiting the Sick.*

The Sum of the Duties and Offices, respectively implied in these Words, may be collected from the following Rules.

S E C T. II.

Rules for the Manner of Visiting the Sick.

1. **L**ET the Minister be sent to, not when the Sick is in the Agonies of Death, as it is usual so to do, but before his Sickness encreases too much upon him: For when the Soul is confused and disturbed by the Violence of the Distemper, and Death begins to stare the Man in the Face, there is little Reason to hope for any good Effect from the Spiritual Man's Visitation. For how can any regular Administration take Place, when the Man is all over in a Disorder? How can he be called upon to confess his Sins, when his Tongue falters, and his Memory fails him? How can he receive any Benefit by the Prayers which are offered up for him, when he is not able to give Attention to them? Or how can he be comforted, upon any sure Grounds of Reason or Religion, when his Reason is just expiring, and all his Notions of Religion together with it? Or, when the
Man,

The Manner of Visiting the Sick. 3

Man, perhaps, had never any real Sentiments of Religion before?

It is therefore a Matter of sad Consideration, That the Generality of the World look upon the Minister, in the Time of their Sicknes, as the sure Fore-runner of Death; and think his Office so much to relate to another World, that he is not to be treated with, as long as there is any Hope of living in this: Which is a fatal Mistake that many Thousands, 'tis to be fear'd, run themselves into; who, neglecting to *set their House in order*, in the Beginning of their Sicknes, drive it off till the last: And then the Minister is sent for in a Hurry; and he comes and says a few Prayers over the Sick, and soon after the Man dies, and God only knows what becomes of his Soul.

To prevent therefore so great a Hazard of miscarrying, it is highly requisite, the Minister be sent for, when the sick Person is able to be conversed with and instructed; and can understand, or be taught to understand the Case of his Soul, and the Rules of his Conscience, and all the several Bearings of Religion, with respect to God, his Neighbour, and Himself. For to prepare a Soul for its Change, is a Work of great Difficulty; and the Intercourses of the Mi-

4 *The Manner of Visiting the Sick.*

nister with the Sick have so much Variety in them, that they are not to be transacted at once. Sometimes there is need of special Remedies against Impatience, and the Fear of Death; not only to animate, but to make the Person desirous and willing to die. Sometimes it is requisite to awaken the Conscience by *the Terrors of the Lord*; to open, by Degrees, all the Labyrinths of Sin, (those innumerable Windings and Turnings which insensibly lead Men into Destruction) which the habitual Sensualist can never be able to discover, unless directed by the particular Grace of God, and the Assistance of a faithful and judicious Guide. Sometimes there is need of the Balm of Comfort, to pour in *Oil and Wine* (with the good *Samaritan*) into the bleeding Wound, by representing the tender Mercies of God, and the love of his Son Jesus Christ to Mankind: And at other Times it will be necessary to *reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with all Long-suffering and Doctrine*: So that a Clergy-man's Duty, in the Visitation of the Sick, is not over at once; but at one Time he must pray; at another Time he must assist, advise and direct; at another, he must open to him the Nature of Repentance, and exhort him to a Confession of his Sins, both to God and Man,
in

The Manner of Visiting the Sick. 5

in all those Cases, which require it; and at another Time, he must give him Absolution, and the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord.

And indeed he, that ought to watch all the Periods of his Life, in the Days of his Health, lest he should be surprized and overcome, had need be watched when he is sick, and assisted and called upon, and reminded of the several Parts of his Duty in every instant of his Temptation.

The Want of this makes the Visitations of the Clergy fruitless, because they are not suffer'd to imprint those proper Effects upon the Sick, which are needful in so important a Ministration.

2. When the Minister is come, let him discourse concerning the Causes of Sickness, and by a general Argument move him to a Consideration of his Condition. Let him call upon him first in general Terms, to *set his House in order, to trim and adorn his Lamp, and to prepare himself for another World*; and then let him perform the customary Duties of Prayer, and afterwards descend to all other Particulars, as occasion shall offer, and Circumstances require.

4. According to the Condition of the Man, and the Nature of his Sickness, e-

6 *The Manner of Visiting the Sick.*

very Act of the Visitation is to be proportioned. If this Condition be full of Pain and Infirmary, the Exhortation ought to be shorter, and the Minister more *instant in Prayer*: And the little Service, the sick Man can do for himself, should be supplied by the charitable Care of his Guide, who is in such a Case to speak more to God for him than to talk to him: For the *Prayer of the righteous*, when it is *fervent*, hath a Promise to *prevail much in the behalf of the sick Person*: But Exhortations must prevail by their own proper Weight, and not by the Passion of the Speaker; and therefore should be offer'd when the Sick is able to receive them. And even in this Assistance of Prayer, if the sick Man joins with the Minister, the Prayers should be short, frequent, fervent, and ejaculatory, apt rather to comply with his weak Condition, than wearisome to his Spirits, in tedious and long Offices. But in case it appears he hath sufficient Strength to go along with the Minister, he is then more at Liberty to offer up longer Petitions for him.

After the Minister hath made this Preparatory Entrance to this Work of much Time and Deliberation, he may descend to the Particulars of his Duty, in the following Method. S E C T.

S E C T. III.

Of Instructing the sick Man in the Nature of Repentance, and Confession of his Sins.

THE first Duty to be rightly stated to the Sick Man, is that of Repentance; in which the Ministers cannot be more serviceable to him, than by laying before him a regular Scheme of it, and exhorting him, at the same Time, to a free and ingenuous Declaration of the State of his Soul. For unless they know the Manner of his Life, and the several Kinds and Degrees of those Sins, which require his penitential Sorrow, or Restitution, either they can do nothing at all, or nothing of Advantage and Certainty. Wherefore the Minister may move him to this, in the following Manner.

Arguments and Exhortations to move the sick Man to Repentance, and Confession of his Sins.

1. That Repentance is a Duty indispensably necessary to Salvation. * That to this End, all the Preachings and Endeavours of the Prophets and Apostles are directed,

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rected. * That our Saviour *came down from Heaven on purpose to call*
Matt. ix. 13. *Sinners to Repentance.* * That as it is a necessary Duty at all Times, so more-especially in the Time of Sicknes, when we are commanded in a particular manner to *set our House in order.* That 'tis a Work of great Difficulty, consisting in general of a *Change of Mind*, and a *Change of Life.* Upon which account it is called, in Scripture, a *State of Regeneration*, or *new Birth*; a *Conversion from Sin to God*; a *being renewed in the Spirit of our Minds*; a *putting off the old Man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful Lusts of the Flesh*, and a *putting on the new Man, which is created in Righteousness and true Holiness.* * That so great a Change as this is not to be effected at once, but requires the utmost Self-Denial and Resolution to put in Execution, consisting in general of the following Particulars: 1. A sorrowful Sense of our Sins. 2. An humble Confession of them. 3. And unfeigned Abhorrence and Forsaking of them, and Turning to the Lord our God with all our Hearts. 4. A patient Continuance in Well-doing to the End of our Lives.

These are the constituent and essential Parts of a true Repentance; which may
seve-

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severally be displayed from the following Motives of Reason and Scripture, as Opportunity shall serve, and the Sick Man's Condition permit.

The first Part of a true Repentance is a sorrowful Sense of our Sins, which naturally produceth this good Effect, as we may learn from *St. Paul*, (2 Cor. 7. 10.) where he tells us, That *godly Sorrow worketh Repentance*. Without it, to be sure, there can be no such Thing. For how can a Man repent of that, which he is not sorry for? Or how can any one sincerely ask Pardon and Forgiveness, for what he is not concern'd or troubled about?

A sorrowful Sense, then, of our Sins, is the first Part of a true Repentance, the Necessity whereof may be seen from the grievous and abominable Nature of Sin; as, 1. That it made so wide a Separation betwixt God and Man, that nothing but the Blood of his only begotten Son could suffice to atone for its intolerable Guilt. 2. That it carries along with it the basest Ingratitude, as being done against our heavenly Father, *in whom we live and move and have our Being*. 3. That the Consequence of it is nothing less than eternal Ruin, in that *the Wrath of God is revealed against all impenitent Sinners*, and the
Wages

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Wages of Sin is Death, not only temporal but eternal.

From these, and the like Considerations, the Penitent may further learn, that to be sorry for our Sins, is a great and punishing Duty: That it does not consist in a little trivial Concern, a superficial Sigh, or Tear, or a Calling our selves Sinners, &c. but in a real ingenuous pungent and afflicting Sorrow. For can that which cast our Parents out of Paradise at first; that brought down the Son of God afterwards from Heaven, and put him at last to such a cruel and shameful Death, be now thought to be done away by a single Tear or a Groan? Can so base a Piece of Ingratitude, as rebelling against the Lord of Glory, who gives us all we have, be suppos'd to be pardon'd by a slender Submission? Or can that, which deserves the Torment of Hell, be sufficiently atton'd for by a little Indignation, and superficial Remorse?

True Repentance, therefore, is ever accompanied with a deep and afflicting Sorrow; a Sorrow that will break the Heart in Pieces, and make us so irreconcilable to Sin, as that we shall chuse rather to die than to live in it. For so the bitterest Accents of Grief are all ascrib'd to a true Repentance in Scripture; such as a *Weeping sorely,*

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sores, or bitterly, a Weeping Day and Night, a Repenting in Dust and Ashes, a putting on Sack-cloth, Fasting and Praying, &c. Thus holy David; *I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly, I go Mourning all the Day long, and that by reason of mine Iniquities, which are gone over my Head, and, as an heavy Burden, are too heavy for me to bear,* Psal. 38. 4, 6. Thus Ephraim could say, *After that I was instructed, I smote upon my Thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the Reproach of my Youth,* Jer. 31. 19.

And this is the proper Satisfaction for Sin, which God expects, and hath promis'd to accept, as Psal. 51. 17. *The Sacrifices of God are a broken Spirit: A broken and a contrite Heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

2. The next Thing requisite in a true Repentance, is Confession of Sins, which naturally follows the other; for if a Man be so deeply affected with Sorrow for his Sins, he'll be glad to be rid of them, as soon as he can; and the Way for this, is humbly to confess them to God, who hath promised to forgive us if we do. *I said, I will confess my Sins unto the Lord,* saith the Psalmist, *and so thou forgavest the Wickedness of my Sin,* Psal. 32. 6. So Prov. 28. 13. and 1 John 1. 9. *If we confess our Sins,*
God

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is then to be made in the most prudential Manner, and to the most proper Person.

* That the most proper Person for Confession of Sins in this, and all other Cases which require it, is (generally speaking) the Minister, from whom the Penitent is to receive the Benefit of Absolution, and the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord. * That all Sins which are of a flagrant Nature, and such as are a Burden to the Conscience, should in all Reason, as well as Religion, be confessed to him; since as he is Physician of Souls, he cannot tell how to administer so effectually to their Necessities, if the Case be not open'd to Him (a).

For a further Motive therefore to this so necessary a Duty, the Penitent should be made sensible of the high Privileges and Authority of the ministerial Office. * That God hath made Ministers the Publishers and Dispensers of his Pardon for Sins, by the Commission of the Sacramental Seals of the Gospel to them, and by the

(a) Si tacuerit qui percussus est, & non egerit poenitentiam, nec vulnus suum Fratri & Magistro voluerit confiteri; Magister qui linguam habet ad curandum, facile ei prodesse non poterit. Si enim erubescat ægrotus vulnus medico confiteri quod ignorat, medicina non curat. *S. Hieron. ad cap. 10. Eccles.*

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Power of Absolution confer'd upon their Order. * That to this Purpose they are called *Ministers of Reconciliation*, and are commanded to *restore such as are overtaken in a Fault*; and for that End they come to offer their Ministry, to reconcile them to God, provided they may have a true and thorough Knowledge of the State of their Case.

That in all this, though there is no Compulsion upon the Penitent, yet if *he hide his Sins, he shall not be directed*, (as the Wise Man says) but e'er long he must appear before the great Judge of Men and Angels: And his Spirit will then be infinitely more amazed and confounded, to be seen among the Angels of Light, with the Works of Darknes upon him, than it would be if he ingeniously confess'd himself to God, in the Presence of him whom God hath sent to heal him. * That there can be no good Argument against doing of this, but what is deriv'd from Flesh and Blood, from Sins and Infirmities, to all which Confession is a direct Enemy, and therefore should be more readily embraced by every sincere repenting Sinner, &c. (b).

(b) Vid. *Bishop Taylor's Holy Dying*, p. 192.

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3. A third thing requisite in a true Repentance is an unfeigned Abhorrence and Forsaking of Sin, and Turning to the Lord our God with all our Hearts.

For so we find them expressly join'd together by St. Paul, when he *charges* those, whom by Vision he was sent to convert, to * change their Mind, and turn to God, and do Works meet for Repentance, Acts 26. 20.

* ἀπα^νήγ[ε]λλον
με^τε^νοεῖν.

And a little before he says, he was sent to open their Eyes, and to turn them from Darkness to Light, and from the Power of Satan unto God, that they might receive Forgiveness of Sins, Ver. 18. And we shall always find, when we are commanded to cease from Evil, it is in order to do Good.

The Penitent, therefore, must be reminded, not only to *confess* and be sorry for his Sins, but likewise to *forsake* them. For 'tis He only, who *confesseth and forsaketh his Sins that shall have Mercy*, Prov. 28. 13. And this Forsaking must not be only for the present, during his Sicknes, or for a Week, a Month or a Year, but for his whole Life, be it never so long protracted; which is the

4. Last Thing requisite in a true Repentance, viz. a patient Continuance in well-doing to the End of our Lives. For as the Holy Jesus assures us, that *he that holds out*
to

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to the End shall be saved: So does the Spirit of God profess, that *if any Man draw back, his Soul shall have no Pleasure in him,* Heb. 11. 38. Hence we are said to be *Partakers of Christ, if we hold the Beginning of our Confidence stedfast to the End,* Heb. 3. 14. but not else: For 'tis to *him only that overcometh, and keepeth his Works to the End,* that our Saviour hath promis'd to reward, Rev. 2. 26. Hence our Religion is said to be a continual Warfare, and we must be constantly *pressing forward toward the Mark of our high Calling,* with the Apostle, *lest we fail of the Prize.*

And this it is which makes a Death-bed Repentance so justly reckoned by all Divines, to be very full of Hazard; such as none, who defer it till then, can depend upon, with any real Security. For let a Man be never so seemingly penitent in the Day of his Visitation, yet none but God can tell whether it be sincere or not; since nothing is more common than for those who expressed the greatest Signs of a lasting Repentance, upon a sick Bed, to forget all their Vows and Promises of Amendment, as soon as God had remov'd the Judgment, and restor'd them to their former Health. *It happen'd to them according to the true Proverb,* as St. Peter says, *The Dog is turned*

C

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ned to his own Vomit again, and the Sow that was washed to her wallowing in the Mire, 2 Pet. 2. 22.

The sick Penitent, therefore, should be often reminded of this ; * That nothing will be look'd upon as true Repentance, but what proceeds from such a right Principle, as will terminate in a holy Life. * That therefore he ought to take great heed, that his Repentance be not only the Effect of his present Danger, but that it be lasting and sincere, *bringing forth Works meet for Repentance*, should it please God *mercifully* to prove him by a longer Life.

But here 'tis much to be fear'd, that after all his endeavours to bring Men to a Sight of themselves, and to repent them truly of their Sins, the spiritual Man will meet with but very little Encouragement : For if we look round the World, we shall find the generality of Men to be of a rude Indifferency, and a seared Conscience, and mightily ignorant of their Condition, with respect to another World, being abused by evil Customs and Principles, apt to excuse themselves, and to be content with a certain general and indefinite Confession ; so that if you provoke them never so much to acknowledge their Faults, you shall hardly ever extort any thing farther from them than

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than this, viz. That they are Sinners, as every Man hath his Infirmary, and they as well as any; but, God be thanked, they have done no Injury to any Man, but are in Charity with all the World: And perhaps they'll tell you, They are no Swearers, nor Adulterers, nor Rebels, &c. but that, God forgive them, they must needs acknowledge themselves to be Sinners in the main, &c. And if you can open their Breast so far, it will be look'd upon sufficient: To go any farther, will be to do the Office of an Accuser, not of a Friend.

But, which is yet worse, there are a great many Persons who have been so used to an habitual Course of Sin, that the Crime is made natural and necessary to them, and they have no Remorse of Conscience for it, but think themselves in a State of Security very often, when they stand upon the Brink of Damnation. This happens in the Cases of Drunkenness and Luxury, and Idleness, and mis-spending of the Sabbath, and in Lying and vain Jestings, and Slandering of others; and particularly in such Evils as the Laws do not punish, nor publick Customs shame, but which are countenanced by potent Sinners, or wicked Fashions, or good Nature and mistaken Civilities.

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In these and the like Cases the spiritual Man must endeavour to awaken their Consciences, by such Means as follow.

Arguments and general Heads of Discourse, by way of Consideration, to awaken a stupid Conscience and the careless Sinner.

1. And here let the Minister endeavour to affect his Conscience, by representing to him,

* That Christianity is a holy and strict Religion: * That the Promises of Heaven are so great, that 'tis not reasonable to think, a small Matter and a little Duty will procure it for us: * That some Persons, who have lived strictly for many Years together, have yet miscarried at last, by some darling and unobserved Crime; as a secret Hypocrisy, or latent Pride, or Ambition, or Envy, or Malice, or the like: That much less therefore can *They* hope to receive so great Portions of Felicity, whose whole Life hath been a continual Declension from the Strictness and Severity of the Laws of God: * That religious Persons are always the most scrupulous; and that to feel nothing is not a Sign of Life, but of Death: * That we
live

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live in an Age in which that, which is called and esteemed a holy Life, in the Days of the Apostles and Primitive Christianity would have been esteemed indifferent, sometimes scandalous, and always cold : * That when we have *done our best, all our Righteousness is but as filthy Rags* ; and we can never do too much to make our *Calling and Election sure* : * That every good Man ought to be suspicious of himself, fearing the worst, that he may provide for the best : * That even *St. Paul*, and several other remarkable Saints, had at sometimes great Apprehensions of failing of the *mighty Prize of their high Calling* : * That we are commanded to *work out our Salvation with Fear and Trembling* ; inasmuch as we shall be called to an Account, not only for our sinful Words and Deeds, but even for our very Thoughts : That if we keep all the Commandments of God, and *yet offend in one Point*, (i. e. wilfully) *we are guilty of all*, Jam. 2. 10. * That no Man can tell how oft he offendeth, the best of Lives being full of innumerable Stops and Blemishes in the Sight of God, however they may appear before Men : * That no Man ought to judge of the State of his Soul, by the Character he has in the World ; for a great many Persons go to Hell, who have

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lived in a fair Reputation here; and a great many on the other hand go to Heaven, who have been loaded with Infamy and Reproach: * That the Work of Religion is a Work of great Difficulty, Trial and Temptation: That *many are called, but few are chosen*: * That *strait is the Gate, and narrow is the Way that leadeth to Life, and few there be that find it*: And lastly, * That *if the Righteous themselves shall scarcely be saved*, there will be no Place for the Unrighteous and Sinner to appear in, but of Horror and Amazement.

By these and such like Motives to Consideration, the spiritual Man is to awaken the careless Sinner, and to bring him to Repentance and Confession of his Sins; and if either of himself, or by this Means, the sick Man is brought to a right Sense of his Condition; then,

2. Let the Minister proceed to assist him in the understanding the Number of his Sins, *i. e.* the several kinds of them, and the various ways of prevaricating with the Divine Commandments. Let him make him sensible how every Sin is aggravated, more or less, according to the different Circumstances of it; as by the Greatness or Smallness of the Temptation, the Scandal it gives to others, the Dishonour it does to Religion,

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Religion, the Injury it brings along with it to those whom it more immediately concerns, the Degrees of Boldness and Impudence, the Choice in acting it, the Continuance in it, the Expence, Desires, and Habit of it, &c.

3. Let the sick Man, in the Scrutiny of his Conscience and Confession of his Sins, be carefully reminded to consider those Sins, which are no where condemn'd but in the *Court of Conscience*. For there are certain secret Places of Darknes, artificial Blinds of the Devil, with which he uses to hide our Sins from us, and to incorporate them into our Affections, by the general Practice of others, and the mistaken Notions of the World. As, 1. Many Sins before Men are accounted honourable; such as, Fighting a Duel, returning Evil for Evil, Blow for Blow, &c. Robbing with a Navy, or unjustly invading a Neighbour Country by Force of Arms, &c. 2. Others seem to have the Countenance of the Law, as unlimited Usury; which, because Usury it self is permitted in all Countries, Men are apt to run into upon every Occasion; not considering that Usury, when it is not restrain'd within its due Bounds and proper Circumstances, is a certain Sin. 3. Some things are not forbidden by the Law of

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Man, as Lying in ordinary Discourse, Jearing, Scoffing, intemperate Eating, Ingratitude, Selling too dear, circumventing another in Contracts, outwitting and over-reaching in Bargains, extorting and taking Advantage of the Necessities or Ignorance of other People, importunate Intreaties and Temptations of Persons to many Instances of Sin, as Intemperance, Pride and Ambition, &c. All which therefore do strangely blind the Understanding, and captivate the Affections of sinful Men, and lead them into a thousand Snares of the Devil, they are not aware of. 4. Some others do not reckon they sin against God, if the Laws have seized upon the Person: And many who are imprison'd for Debt, think themselves disobliged from Payment; and when they pay the Penalty, think they owe nothing for the Scandal and Disobedience. 5. Some Sins are thought not considerable, but go under the Titles of Sins of Infirmary, or inseparable Accidents of Mortality; such as idle Thoughts, foolish Talking, looser Revellings, Impatience, Anger, and all the Events of evil Company. 6. Lastly, Many Things are thought to be no Sins; such as mis-spending of their Time, whole Days or Months of useless or impertinent Employment,

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Employment, long Gaming, winning Mens Money in great Portions, censuring Mens Actions, Curiosity, equivocating in the Prices of buying and Selling, rudeness in Speech or Behaviour, speaking uncharitable Truths, doing good to evil Purposes, and the like.

These are some of those artificial Veils, and Coverings, under the dark Shadow of which, the Enemy of Mankind makes very many to lie hid from themselves, blinding them with false Notions of Honour, and the mistaken Opinions and Practices of the World; with publick Permission and Impunity, or (it may be) a temporal Penalty; or else with Prejudice, or Ignorance and Infirmary, and direct Error in Judgment.

Now in all these Cases, the Ministers are to be inquisitive and strictly careful, that such kind of Fallacies prevail not over the Sick; but that those Things, which passed without Observation before, may now be brought forth, and pass under the Severity of a strict and impartial Censure, Religious Sorrow and Condemnation.

4. To this may be added, for the Likeness of the Thing, that there be made a general Display of the Neglect and Omission of our Duty; for in them lies the bigger half

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half of our Failings: and yet in many Instances they are undiscern'd; because our Consciences have not been made tender and perceptible of them. But whoever will cast up his Accounts, even with a superficial Eye, will quickly find, that he hath left undone, for the generality, as many Things which he ought to have done, as he hath committed those he ought not to have done: Such as the neglect of Publick or Private Prayer, of reading the Scriptures, and instructing his Family, or those that are under him, in the Principles of Religion: The not beating down and discountenancing Sin to his Power, especially in the Personages of Great Men: The not *redeeming the Time*, and *growing in Grace*, and doing all the Good he can in his Generation: The frequent Omissions of the great Duty of Charity, in visiting the Sick, relieving the Needy, and comforting the Afflicted: The want of Obedience, Duty and Respect to Superiors, Parents and Governours, ecclesiastical and civil: The doing the Work of God negligently, or not discharging himself with that Fidelity, Care and Exactness which is incumbent upon him, in the Station wherein the Providence of God hath plac'd him, &c.

5. With

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5. With respect to those Sins which are committed against Man, and so are particularly to be confess'd to Man, the Minister should warn the Penitent, not to deceive himself by a *partial Confession*; because in such a Case he cannot *be clear'd* in the Accounts of the Almighty by a *partial Satisfaction*. Not that he is to enquire into every particular Circumstance of Time, Manner, Place, Quality, or the Names of the Persons those Sins were transacted with or committed against, (for this would be an indecent and unwarrantable Piece of Curiosity) but only to represent to him, that he can have no Assurance of his Pardon, unless he is willing to make all suitable Amends and Satisfaction to his offended and injur'd Brethren; as for Instance, if he hath liv'd in Enmity with any, that he should labour to be reconciled to them; if he is in Debt, that he should do his utmost to discharge it; or if he hath injur'd any one in his Substance or Credit, that he should endeavour to make Restitution in Kind for the one, and all possible Satisfaction for the other, by humbling himself to the offended Person, and beseeching him to forgive him.

6. If the Sick Person be of evil Report, the Minister should take care, some Way
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or other, to make him sensible of it, so as to shew an effectual Sorrow and Repentance. This will best be done by prudent Hints, and artful Insinuations, of recalling those Things to his Mind, whereof he is accused by the Voice of Fame, or to which the Temptations, perhaps of his Calling, more immediately subject him to. Or if he will not understand, when he is secretly prompted, he must be asked in plain Terms concerning these Matters. He must be told of the evil Things which are spoken of him in Publick, and of the usual Temptations of his Calling.

And it concerns the Minister to follow this Advice, without Partiality or Fear, or Interest, or Respect of Persons, in much Simplicity and Prudence, having no other Consideration before him, but the conscientious Discharge of his Duty, and the Salvation of the Person under his Care.

7. The Minister, in further Discharge of his Duty to the Sick, must be careful to observe, that he impose not upon himself, by some one or other good Quality remarkable in him. For there are several Dispositions which are good by Accident, and not by Principle. Some are charitable to the Poor out of natural Tender-heartedness; and the same good Nature makes them easie
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and compliant with Persons given to drink, and to ev'ry Temptation which is thrown in their Way: Others are very just and punctual Observers of their Word with Men, but make no scruple of breaking their Promises with God. And several other seeming Virtues there are, which pass as real in the Opinion of the World, but yet upon Examination are found to be none. And yet the Devil hath so blinded the Eyes of Men, that few, even of those Persons who stand in most need of discerning it, are sensible of the Fallacy. Wherefore it concerns the Minister, in all these Cases, to pull off the Vizard, and rightly to distinguish betwixt a real and a seeming Virtue.

8. The Sick Person is likewise to be examined concerning his Faith, whether he firmly believes, and has a true Notion of all the Articles of the Christian Religion, as they are excellently summ'd up in the Apostle's Creed: For in order to Salvation, it is indispensably required of us, that we should *Believe* as well as *Do* aright. And therefore the Minister ought to be as particular in this case, as the former; especially with regard to the great and fundamental Articles of our Faith.

9. With respect to his temporal Concerns, the Sick is to be advised to set ev'ry thing

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thing in order, and (if he hath not already) to make his Will as soon as he can. For if he recovers, this cannot be detrimental; but if he dies, it will be of great Comfort and satisfaction to him. And here it must be remembred, that he distributes ev'ry thing according to the exact Rules of Justice, and with such a due Care, as to prevent all Law-Suits, and Contentions for the future; and if he be able, he is to be admonished to do something likewise out of Charity, and for the sake of his poor Brethren.

10. In all the Course of his Visitation, the Minister should frequently be exhorting the Sick Man to Patience, and a blessed Resignation to the Will of God; and not to look upon his Sickness, as barely the Effect of second Causes, but as inflicted on him by Divine Providence for several wise and good Ends: As for the Trial of his Faith; the Exercise of his Patience; the Punishment of his Sins; the Amendment of his Life; or for the Example of others, who, seeing his good Behaviour in such a Day of Calamity, may glorifie their Father which is in Heaven: Or else, that it is for the increase of his future welfare; in order to raise him the higher in Glory hereafter, by how much the lower he hath been depressed here.

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II. When the spiritual Man hath thus discharg'd his Duty, and the Sick hath made himself capable of it, by a religious and holy Conformity to all the forementioned Particulars respecting his Condition and Circumstances, he may then give him the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. And it is the Minister's Office to invite Sick and dying Persons to this Holy Sacrament, provided they discover a right Sense of their Duty. And,

Lastly, If the Sick Man humbly and heartily desires it, and the Minister is thoroughly convinc'd of his sincere and ample Repentance, so that he may safely do it; let him then pronounce that form of Absolution which is prescrib'd in the Visitation-Office; otherwise let no Fondness, or Importunity, or partial Affection oblige him to gratifie the Sick Man herein. For altho' there is a special Commission given by God to the Clergy for absolving Sinners, yet it is only upon Supposition, that they have qualified themselves for it, in all things according to the Laws of Him, from whom they receiv'd their Commission.

And therefore (saith the learned Paraphrast of the Book of Common-Prayer) *The Priest must, by the Confession, Devotion and Penitence of the Party, be well satisfied,*

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fied, that he needs, desires, and is prepar'd for this solemn Absolution, before he use it; and then it shall not only declare, but convey the Pardon to him.

Note, That the Holy Sacrament is not to be administred to dying Persons, when they have no use of their Reason to join with the Minister in his Celebration of it. For the Sacraments operate not of themselves, but as they are made efficacious by the joint Consent and Will, and Religious Acts and Devotion of the Party that receives them. And therefore all Fools and distracted Persons, and Children, and Lethargical and Apoplectical People, or that are any ways senseless and incapable of human and reasonable Acts, are to be assisted only by Prayers: For they may prevail even for the absent, and for Enemies, and for all those who join not in the Office.

Note also, That in Cases of Necessity, where the Sacrament cannot be so conveniently administred, the Sick may be admonish'd to receive it spiritually, *i. e.* by representing the Symbols of the Body and Blood of our Lord to his Mind, and applying them to himself by Faith, with the same Preparations of Faith and Repentance, as if they were really present. For

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doubt but God, in such a Case, who considers all things with exact Justice, and chiefly respects the Sincerity of our Hearts and Intentions, will excuse the Absence of the outward and visible Sign, when Necessity, and not Contempt, or Neglect, was the Occasion of it.

S E C T. IV.

Of applying Spiritual Remedies to the unreasonable Fears and Dejections of the Sick.

IT sometimes happens that good Men, especially such as have tender Consciences, impatient of the least Sin to which they are arriv'd by a long Habit of Grace, and a continual Observation of their Ways, over act their part, and turn their Tenderness into Scruples, and are too much dejected and doubtful concerning their future Salvation. In such a case, the Minister is to represent to them, that the Man who is jealous of himself, is always in the safest Condition: That if he fears on his Death-bed, it is but what happens to most considering Men, and that therefore to fear nothing then, is either a singular Felicity, or a dangerous Presumption.

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But to restrain the Extravagance of Fear, let him be re-minded of the Terms of the Gospel: * That 'tis a Covenant of Grace and Mercy to all: * That *Christ Jesus came into the World to save Sinners*: * That he continues *our Advocate in Heaven*, and daily *intercedes* with his Father for us; * That the whole heavenly Host rejoice at the Conversion of a Sinner: * That the Angels are deputed by God, to be our Guardians against violent Surprizes and Temptations. * That there are different Degrees of Glory in Heaven, so that if we arrive not at the greatest, we may yet hope, by divine Mercy, that we shall not be excluded the less. * That God hath promised to hear the *Prayers of the Righteous* for his Servants. * That he hath ordained a particular Order of Men in his Church for ever, to dispense a Pardon to repenting Sinners. * That God labours with us by his Spirit, and *as it were beseeches us in Christ's stead to be reconciled to him*, 2 Cor. 5. 20. That of all his Attributes, he glories in none so much as in the Titles of Mercy and Forgiveness. * That therefore we do Injustice to the Father of Mercies, if we retain such hard Thoughts and Suspicions of him. * That God calls upon us to forgive our Brother *seventy Times seven*,

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seven; and yet all that is but like the forgiving *an hundred Pence* for his sake who forgives us *ten thousand Talents*. And therefore if we are ordered to shew such an unrestrained Temper of Forgiveness, it is only to animate us to trust in God's much more unbounded Mercy.

By these and the like Arguments, the spiritual Man may raise the drooping Spirits of good Men, in their causeless Dejections. But because there are many other Cases of the like Nature, which the Physician of Souls will meet with in visiting his Neighbours, especially such as are of melancholy Dispositions; it may not be improper to mark the Principal of them here, and to prescribe the Remedies.

Considerations to be offer'd to Persons under religious Melancholy.

1. Some truly religious Persons are under sad Apprehensions of not being in the Favour of God, because they find their Devotions to be very often cold, their Prayers distracted, and their Delight in spiritual Matters, not to be so great and permanent, as their Pleasure and Satisfaction is in the Things of the World.

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Now to such as have made Religion the great Business of their Lives, who have endeavour'd to cure those distracted Thoughts they complain of, and to enflame their Souls with Divine Love and Affection to their Powers, it may be offer'd, * That the different Degrees of Affection with which Men serve God, do very often depend upon the Difference of their Tempers and Constitutions; since some are naturally so dull and heavy, as to be very difficultly affected with any Thing, whilst others are of such a tender Make, as to be affected almost with every Thing, so as to be soon exalted with Joy, or depressed with Sorrow. * That Sickness, Losses, and all Afflictions, and even Religion it self, in its long and continued Exercises of Self-denial and Thoughtfulness, do naturally breed such a Tendernefs of Spirit. * That the best of Men have never been able at all Times to keep their Affections at an equal height. * That the zeal and warmth, with which some are affected, is not always an Argument of their Goodness. * That a sensible Pleasure in religious Exercises (however delightful to our selves) is at no hand necessary to render our Worship acceptable to God; because as his Service is a *reasonable Service*, they who worship him not

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as they are affected by their Passions, but as they are led by their Reason, must be suppos'd to act upon a Principle agreeable to his Nature. * That as to Distraction of Thought in the Service of God, it is owing likewise for the most part to bodily Weakness; and therefore if we don't give way to it, but do all we can to suppress those wandering Thoughts, we may be assured we shall never be blamed for being subject to that, which by reason of the Weakness of our Nature we cannot help. * That the first Motions of our Mind, as it is impossible to hinder them, so they are reckon'd by all Divines not to be sinful, provided we don't encourage them.

2. Some are extremely dejected, because upon strict Examination of themselves, they find, as they think, all their Religion to be owing to their Fears; and Fear being a slavish and a sordid Passion, they are apt to conclude, that all those Services, which are not the result of a more noble Principle, will be rejected by God, since, as he is all Love and Goodness, and Perfection, he will not be pleas'd, they think, with any Sacrifice, but what is offer'd by Love.

And to this sad Purpose some have interpreted, *Rev. 21. 8.* to belong to them,

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where the *fearful* are join'd together with the most abominable, who shall have their part in the Lake which burneth with Fire and Brimstone.

To cure the deprav'd and unhappy Notions of such as these, it may be argued; That 'tis plain from Scripture, that the first Beginnings of, or Movements towards an Holy Life, are usually owing to the Passion of Fear. * That to this, both our Saviour and his Apostles do all along address themselves in their earnest Intreaties of Mankind, to turn from the ways of Sin to God. *Fear him*, saith our Saviour, *who is able to destroy both Soul and Body in Hell*, St. *Matth.* 10. 28. So 6. & 14. And St. *Mark* 16. 16. And to this purpose, saith the Apostle, *Work out your Salvation with Fear and Trembling*, Phil. 2. 12. And 2 *Cor.* 5. 10. *Knowing the Terrors of the Lord*, saith he, *we perswade Men*. And in most of the Scripture Proofs we shall find the chief Argument of Religion, to be urg'd from a fear of Punishment for the neglect thereof: So that to be dejected, and render our Lives comfortless upon this Account, were the most unreasonable Extravagance; since this were to suppose, that God had implanted the Passion of Fear in us in vain; or what is worse, only

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to vex and torment us ; and that our Saviour and his Apostles, perswading us to be religious from *the Terrors of the Lord*, had deceiv'd and misled us.

And as for that Text, Rev. 21. 8. *The fearful and unbelieving, and the abominable and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the Lake which burneth with Fire and Brimstone, &c.* It is plain, that by the *fearful* in this place, is meant, either such as refuse to embrace the Christian Religion, or having embrac'd it, are afraid to continue stedfast to the end, on account of the Cross ; and therefore cannot be suppos'd to have any Reference to those who are *working out their Salvation with Fear and Trembling*, according to the Direction of the Gospel. Not but that we are to intermix with this Fear an entire Love and Affection to God, to the utmost of our Powers, from innumerable Arguments and Motives thereto, which are obvious to all.

3. Some very pious, but unhappy Persons, are grievously tormented with wicked and blasphemous Thoughts, so as to fall under the greatest Agonies of Mind, and often to be so near Distraction, as to chuse Death rather than Life.

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For the Relief and Comfort of these, the Minister should suggest to them, * That such horrid and frightful Thoughts are either occasion'd through Melancholy prevailing over their Spirits, and disordering the Frame of their Minds: Or else from the Malice of the Devil, and the Spirits of Darkness, who do all they can to shake our Faith, and to embitter the christian Life.

If to the former we ascribe such horrid Thoughts, they may be comforted upon Assurance, that they will not be imputed to them as their Sin, any more than a Fever or any bodily Distemper will, which they did not willingly procure, and which they have tried all Means to get rid of.

If to the latter, they may be encouraged rather to rejoice, in that nothing is a greater sign of their being high in the Favour of God, than when they are under the most violent Temptations of the Devil. *My Brethren, count it all Joy, saith St. James, when ye fall into divers Temptations, ch. 1.2.* To this effect, they may be taught to consider, * That *we wrestle not (only) against Flesh and Blood, but against Principalities, against Powers, against the Rulers of the Darkness of this World, against spiritual Wickedness, or wicked Spirits in high Places,* Ephes-

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Ephes. 6. 12. * That therefore the way to Heaven is justly said to be by the Gates of Hell. * That the *same Afflictions are accomplish'd in their Brethren which are in the World*, who in various Kinds are tempted of the Tempter, 1 Pet. 5. 8. * That He *desired to have St. Peter to sift him as Wheat*, St. Luke 22. 31. * That our Saviour himself was tempted by him, and the best of Men have always been most obnoxious to his Malice; and that to live in carnal Security, without any Molestations from him, is the most dangerous State. * That the being so much concern'd and afflicted at such evil Thoughts, is a certain Argument of a good Disposition, since the Wicked and Prophane are rather pleased than tormented with them.

Such kind of Arguments are the most proper to be offer'd to such unhappy Persons. But in case their Faith and Hope be totally assaulted and overcome by the Devil, and they fall into direct Despair, it will be necessary then to endeavour the Cure of so great an Evil and Temptation, by the Addition of the following Exercise :

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An Exercise against Despair.

Despair assents us firmly and strongly as Faith it self. But because it is a violent Sin, and a great Temptation of the Devil; it is certain, that those who are fallen under it, notwithstanding their deplorable Assurance, have more Reason to condemn their Despair, than to condemn themselves; because it is so great a Dishonour to God, and will inevitably bring that Ruin along with it, which they apprehend, unless they take Care to prevent it in time. For as the hypochondriacal Person, who fancied himself dead, made his Dream true when he starv'd himself, because dead People eat not; so despairing Sinners lose God's Mercies, by refusing to use and believe them.

To Persons therefore, under so sad, as well as dangerous a Condition, let the most seasonable Advice, and all the most comfortable Dispensations of the Gospel be administered. To the former Considerations let the following be added;

That God is not willing that *any should perish*, but desirous that all should come to his Glory. * That for this end, we were created. * That he is so far from being *extreme to mark what is done amiss*, that he will

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will not refuse the returning *Prodigal*, nor reject the worst of Criminals, *tho' their Sins be as red as Scarlet*, upon their sincere Repentance. * That the Thief upon the Cross is a demonstrable Proof of this, and a standing Example to prevent the greatest Sinner from Despair. * That if God is so merciful and condescending to the vilest Transgressors, much rather may we hope to be pardon'd for our Weakness and Infirmities. For he *knoweth whereof we are made, he remembreth that we are but Dust*. Nay, he hath assured us, that he *will not break the bruised Reed, nor quench the smoking Flax*. * That all Sins shall be forgiven the Sons of Men, except one, which is the Sin against the Holy Ghost, *the Sin unto Death*, as St. *John* calls it, for which we are not bound to pray; for all others we are. And 'tis certain, that no Man commits a Sin against the Holy Ghost, if he be afraid he hath, or desires that he had not; for such penitential Passions are against the very Nature and Definition of that Sin. * That altho' Forgiveness of Sins is consign'd to us in Baptism, and Baptism is but once, yet Forgiveness of Sins being the special Grace of the Gospel, it is secured to us for our Life, and ebbs and flows, according as we discompose or renew the Performance

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formance of our baptismal Vow; therefore 'tis certain, that no Man ought to despair of Pardon, but he who hath voluntarily renounced his Baptism, or willingly estranged himself from that Covenant. * That if it were not so, then all Preaching and Prayers were in vain, and all the Conditions of the Gospel invalid, and there could be no such thing as Repentance, nor indeed scarce a Possibility of any one's being sav'd, if all were to be concluded in a State of Damnation, who had committed Sin after Baptism.

To have any Fears therefore upon this Account, were the most extravagant Madness. For Christ *died for Sinners, and God hath comprehended all under Sin*, that thro' him, *he might have Mercy upon all*, Rom. 11. 32. And it was concerning baptized Christians, that St. John said, *If any Man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, and he is the Propitiation for our Sins*: And concerning lapsed Christians, St. Paul gave Instruction, that *if any Man be overtaken in a Fault, ye which are spiritual restore such a Man in the Spirit of Meekness, considering lest ye also be tempted*. The Corinthian Christian committed Incest, and was pardon'd: And Simon Magus, after he was baptiz'd, offer'd to commit his own Sin of Simony,

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Simony, and yet *Peter* bid him *pray for Pardon*: And *St. James* tells us, that, *if the sick Man sends for the Elders of the Church, and they pray over him, and he confess his Sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

* That even in the Case of very great Sins, and great Judgments inflicted upon Sinners, wise and good Men have declared their Sense to be, that God spent all his Anger, and made it expire in that temporal Punishment; and so it was supposed to have been done in the Case of *Ananias*, &c. * That nothing can be more absurd, than to think, that so great and so good a God, who is so desirous of saving all, as appears by his Word, by his sending his Son, by his Oaths and Promises, by his very Nature and daily Overtures of Mercy, should condemn any without the greatest Provocations of his Majesty, and Perseverance in them.

Upon the Strength of these Arguments, the despairing Person may be further taught to argue thus with himself.

I consider that the Ground of my Trouble is my Sin, and were it not for that, I should have no Reason to be troubled: But since the *whole World lieth in Wickedness*, and since there cannot be a greater Demonstration of a Man's Abhorrence of Sin, than
to

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to be so deeply affected with Sorrow for it; I therefore will erect my Head with a holy Hope, and think that God will also be merciful to me a Sinner, as he is to the rest of Mankind. I know that the Mercies of God are infinite: That he sent his Son into the World on purpose to redeem such as my self; and that he hath promised over and over, *to give to them that ask, and to be found of them that seek him*; and therefore I will not distrust his Goodness, nor look upon the great God of Heaven and Earth to be worse than his Word. Indeed, if from my self I were to derive my Title to Heaven, then my Sins were a just Argument of Despair: But now that they bring me to Christ, that they drive me to an Appeal to God's Mercy, and to take Sanctuary in the Cross, certainly they ought not, they cannot infer a just Cause of Despair. I am sure it is a stranger thing, that God should come down from Heaven, and take upon him our Nature, and live and die in the most ignominious State of it, than that a sinful Man, washed by the Blood of Christ, and his own Tears and Humiliation, should be admitted to Pardon, and made *Partaker of the Kingdom of Heaven*: And it were stranger yet, that God should do so much for Man, and that

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a Man that desires it, that labours after it to the utmost of his Power, that sends up strong Cries and Prayers, and is still within the Covenant of Grace, should inevitably miss that End for which God did and suffer'd so much.

'Tis certain, that of all the Attributes that belong to God, there is none more essential to his Nature, and which he takes more Delight in than his Mercy; and 'tis as certain also, there must be proper Objects for this boundless and immense Attribute of God, and the most proper, if not only Objects of Mercy in the Creation, are the Children of Men; and of Men surely those who are most grieved and wearied with the Burden of their Sins. I therefore, who am as pitiful an Object of Mercy as any, will chearfully hope, that God will both forgive me here, and give me the Blessing of eternal Life hereafter. For I know that *eternal Life* is purely the *Gift of God*, and therefore have less Reason (still) to despair. For if my Sins were fewer, and my Disproportions towards such a Glory were less, yet still I could not receive it, but as a free Gift, and Donation of God, and so I may now; and it is not an Expectation beyond the Hopes of Possibility, to look and wait for such a Gift at
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the Hands of the God of Mercy. The best of Men deserve it not, and I, who am the worst, may have it given me. I know that I have sinned grievously and frequently against my heavenly Father, but I have repented, I have begg'd Pardon, I have confess'd and forsaken my Sins, and done all that is possible for me to make Atonement. I cannot undo what is done, and I perish if there be no such thing as a Remedy, or *Remission of Sins*. But then I know my Religion must perish together with my Hope, and the Word of God it self must fail as well as I. But I cannot, I dare not entertain such a Thought. I firmly believe that most encouraging Article of Faith, *The Remission of Sins*; and since I do that, which all good Men call Repentance, I will also humbly hope for a *Remission of mine*, and a *joyful Resurrection*.

I know that the Devil is continually lying in wait to trapan and devour the Souls of Men; (*for we are not ignorant of his Devices*) wherefore I will fortifie my Spirits, and redouble my Guard, and call upon my God to enable me to resist all the fiery Darts, which he now so maliciously and furiously shoots against me.

Or perhaps this exceeding Dejection, or Malady of Mind; may arise from the Distemper

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stemper and Weakness of my Body: Or at most, I hope, 'tis only a Disease of Judgment; not an intolerable Condition I am fallen into: and since I have heard of a great many others who have been in the same Condition with my self, and yet recover'd; I will also take courage to hope that God will relieve me in his good Time, and *not leave my Soul* for ever, in this *Hell* of deprav'd Fancy, and wicked Imagination. In fine, I'll raise up my dejected Spirits, and *cast all my Care upon God*, and depend upon him for the Event, which I am sure will be *just*; and I cannot but think, from the same Reason, *full of Mercy*. However, now I will use all the spiritual Arts of Reason, and Religion, to make me more and more to *love God*; that if I miscarry, *Charity also shall fail*, and something that *loves God* shall perish, and be damn'd; which if it be impossible (as I am sure it is) then I may have just reason to hope I shall do well.

These Considerations may be of Service to *bind up the broken hearted*, and to strengthen the *bruised Reed* of a good Man's Spirit, in so great and terrible a Dejection. But as Cases of this nature are very rare, so the Arguments, here made use of, are rarely to be insisted upon; and never, but

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to well-dispos'd Persons, or reformed Penitents, or to such as, in the general Course of their Life, have lived pretty strict and conformable to the Rules of Religion. For if the Man be a vicious Person, and hath gone on in a continued Course of Sin, to the time of his Sicknes, these Considerations are not proper. Let him enquire into the Words of the first Disciples after Pentecost, *Men and Brethren, what shall we do to be saved?* And if he can but entertain so much Hope, as to enable him to do as much of his Duty, as he can for the present, it is all that can be provided for him. And the Minister must be infinitely careful, that he does not go about to comfort vicious Persons, with the Comforts of God's Elect, lest he prostitute holy Things, and encourage Vice, and render his Discourses deceitful, and the Man sadly finds them to be so, when he descends into the Regions of Darknes.

But because very few are tempted with too great Fears of Miscarrying; but the generality, even of the most profligate sort, are rather inclin'd to unwarrantable Assurances of their future Salvation, it will highly concern the Ministers, to prevent in time so great and reigning an Imposition of the Devil.

Where.

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Wherefore to the former Considerations *to awaken the careless Sinner, and a stupid Conscience*, the following may be added, upon Occasion, to check the over-weening Thoughts of the Presumptuous.

S E C T. V.

Considerations against Presumption.

AND here, Let the bold and Arrogant Sinner further know, * That a Man cannot think too meanly of himself, but very easily he may run into the contrary Extreme. * That the Growths in Grace are long, difficult, uncertain, often interrupted, consisting of great Variety, and almost innumeral Parts and Distinctions, which a careless Person can never discover. * That the more a Man presumes, the greater Reason he hath to fear, because the Confidence of such Men is generally like that of Children and young People, which hath no other Reason, but that they understand not the Dangers and Follies of their Self-conceits. * That *the Heart of Man is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; deceiving it self, and deceiving others in innumerable Instances,*

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stances, and being often *in the Gall of Bitterness*, when the Man appears with the fairest out-side to the World. * That 'tis certain, all *have sinned and come short of the Glory of God*, but not so certain, that any ones Repentance is real and effective to Salvation. * That we know not whether the Time of Repentance, or the Day of Grace be past; or if it be not, what Measures of Obedience and Degrees of Perfection, or what Trials and Sufferings are expected of us, to make our *Calling and Election sure*. * That Virtue and Vice are oftentimes so near Neighbours, that we pass into each others Borders without Observation, and think we do Justice, when we are Cruel; or call our selves Liberal, when we are loose and foolish in our Expences, &c. * That it is not easie to distinguish between the Virtues of Nature, and the Virtues of Choice; but oftentimes a Man shall expect the Reward of Temperance, when 'tis against his Nature to be drunk; and think himself chaste and reserved by abstaining from the Marriage-bed, when 'tis only the Effects of a morose Disposition, or else out of some temporal end or other, &c. * That the Devil hath ten thousand ways of leading us into Temptation, by the most sly and imper-

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imperceptible Means; and that no *Man* can tell how oft he offendeth; insomuch as if we have liv'd never so strict a Life, we have Reason to fear, that our Accounts may swell beyond the Hopes of Pardon, by the number of our petty Sins and Infirmities, which all are too apt to indulge themselves in: For an Army of Flies and Vermin may destroy all the Hopes of the Harvest, as well as an Army of Soldiers; and a Man may be drown'd as soon by a Bag of Sand about his Neck as a Milstone.

* That the self-accusing Publican was justify'd, rather than the self-confident Pharisee. * That if *Adam* in Paradise, *David* in his House, *Solomon* in the Temple, *Peter* in the Family of Christ, *Judas* among the twelve Apostles, and *Nicholas* among the Deacons, and if the *Angels* in Heaven it self, did fall so grossly and foully; then we have all the Reason in the World not to be high-mind, but to fear; and when we are most confident of our selves to take heed lest we fall; there being nothing so likely to occasion it, as Pride and great Opinions of our selves, which ruin'd the Angels, which God resists, which all Men despise, and which betray us into Carelessness, and a wretchless, undiscerning, and unwary Spirit.

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These are the main parts of Ecclesiastical Duties and Offices in the Visitation of the Sick, which being severally perform'd, as occasion requires, it remains only, that the Minister pray over the Sick, and remind him to do good Actions, as he is capable of; to call upon God for Pardon; to put his whole trust in him; to be patient and resign'd; and even, to renounce every ill Thought or Word, or undecent Action, which the Violence of his Sickness may have caused in him; to beg of God to give him his holy Spirit, to guide him in his Agony, and to send his holy Angels to guard him in his Passage.

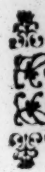
Whatsoever is besides this, concerns the Standers by, that they do all in their respective Offices diligently and temperately: That they join in Prayer with the Minister with much Charity and Devotion. That they make no Outcries or Exclamation in the departure of the Soul; nor any positive Judgment concerning the dying Man; by his dying quietly or violently, with great Fears or a cheerful Confidence, with Sense or without; like a Lamb or like a lion, with Convulsions and terrible Agonies, or like the silent and well-spent Flame of an expiring Taper. For these may happen severally, according

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according to the Constitution of the Persons, and the Nature of the Distemper that befalls them, or else according as God pleases to dispense the Grace, or the Punishment, for Reasons only known to himself.

Let us lay our Hands upon our Mouth, and adore the Mysteries of the Divine Wisdom and Providence, and pray to God to give the dying Man Rest and Pardon; and to our selves Grace to live well, and the Blessings of a holy and happy Death.





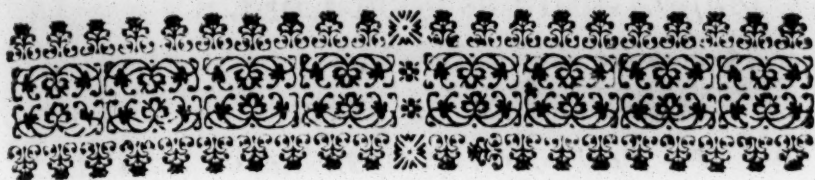
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Visitation of the Sick.

¶ *When any Person is Sick, Notice shall be given thereof to the Minister of the Parish, who coming into the sick Person's House, shall say,*

PEace be to this House, and to all that dwell in it.

¶ *When he cometh into the sick Man's Presence, he shall say, kneeling down,*

Remember not Lord our Iniquities, nor the Iniquities of our Fore-fathers. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy People, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious Blood, and be not angry with us for ever.

Answ.

Ans. Spare us good Lord.

¶ *Then the Minister shall say,*

Let us pray.

Lord have Mercy upon us.

Christ have Mercy upon us.

Lord have Mercy upon us.

OUR Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this Day our daily Bread. And forgive us our Trespases, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into Temptation; but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

Minist. O Lord save thy Servant;

Ans. Which putteth *his* Trust in thee.

Min. Send *him* Help from thy holy Place.

Ans. And evermore mightily defend *him*

Min. Let the Enemy have no Advantage of *him*.

Ans. Nor the wicked approach to hurt *him*.

Min. Be unto *him*, O Lord, a strong Tower.

Ans. From the Face of *his* Enemy.

Min. O Lord, hear our Prayers.

Ans. And let our Cry come unto thee.

Minister.

O Lord look down from Heaven, behold, visit, and relieve this thy Servant. Look upon *him* with the Eyes of thy Mercy;

Mercy ; give *him* Comfort and sure Confidence in thee ; defend *him* from the Danger of the Enemy, and keep *him* in perpetual Peace and Safety, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HEAR us, almighty and most merciful God and Saviour ; extend thy accustomed Goodness to this thy Servant, who is grieved with Sicknes. Sanctifie, we beseech thee, this thy fatherly Correction to *him* ; that the Sense of *his* Weakness may add Strength to *his* Faith, and seriousness to *his* Repentance. That if it shall be thy good Pleasure to restore *him* to *his* former Health, *he* may lead the residue of *his* Life in thy Fear, and to thy Glory : or else give *him* Grace so to take thy Visitation, that after this painful Life is ended, *he* may dwell with thee in Life everlasting, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Minister exhort the sick Person after this Form, or other like.*

DEARLY beloved, know this, that almighty God is the Lord of Life and Death, and of all Things to them pertaining ; as Youth, Strength, Health, Age, Weakness and Sicknes. Wherefore, whatsoever your Sicknes is, know you certainly, that it is God's Visitation. And for what Cause soever this Sicknes is sent unto you ;
whether

whether it be to try your Patience, for the Example of others, and that your Faith may be found in the Day of the Lord laudable, glorious and honourable, to the Increase of Glory and endless Felicity: Or else it be sent unto you to correct and amend in you whatsoever doth offend the Eyes of your heavenly Father: Know you certainly, that if you truly repent you of your Sins, and bear your Sicknes patiently, trusting in God's Mercy for his dear Son Jesus Christ his sake, and render unto him humble Thanks for his fatherly Visitation, submitting your self wholly unto his Will, it shall turn to your Profit, and help you forward in the right way that leadeth unto everlasting Life.

¶ *If the Person visited be very sick, then the Curate may end his Exhortation in this Place, or else proceed.*

TAKE therefore in good part the Chastisement of the Lord: For (as St. Paul saith in the twelfth Chapter to the *Hebrews*) whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every Son whom he receiveth. If ye endure Chastning, God dealth with you as with Sons; for what Son is he whom the Father chasteneth not? But if ye be without Chastisement, whereof all are Partakers, then are ye Bastards, and not Sons. Furthermore, we have had
Fathers

Fathers of our Flesh, which corrected us, and we gave them Reverence; shall we not much rather be in Subjection unto the Father of Spirits, and live? For they, verily, for a few Days chastned us after their own Pleasure; but he for our Profit, that we might be Partakers of his Holiness. These Words (good *Brother*) are written in holy Scripture for our Comfort and Instruction, that we should patiently and with Thanksgiving bear our heavenly Father's Correction, whensoever, by any manner of Adversity, it shall please his gracious Goodness to visit us. And there should be no greater Comfort to Christian Persons, than to be made like unto Christ, by suffering patiently Adversities, Troubles and Sickneses. For he himself went not up to Joy, but first he suffered Pain: He enter'd not into his Glory, before he was crucified. So truly our Way to eternal Joy, is to suffer here with Christ; and our Door to enter into eternal Life, is gladly to die with Christ, that we may rise again from Death, and dwell with him in everlasting Life. Now therefore, taking your Sicknes, which is thus profitable for you, patiently, I exhort you in the Name of God to remember the Profession which you made unto God in your Baptism. And forasmuch as after this
Life,

Life, there is an Account to be given unto the righteous Judge, by whom all must be judged without Respect of Persons. I require you to examine your self, and your Estate, both toward God and Man; so that accusing and condemning your self, and your own Faults, you may find Mercy at our heavenly Father's Hand, for Christ's sake, and not be accused and condemn'd in that fearful Judgment. Therefore I shall rehearse to you the Articles of our Faith, that you may know whether you believe as a Christian Man should, or no.

¶ *Here the Minister shall rehearse the Articles of the Faith, saying thus,*

DOst thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth?

And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son our Lord? and that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin *Mary*; that he suffer'd under *Pontius Pilate*, was crucified, dead and buried; that he went down into Hell, and also did rise again the third Day; that he ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right Hand of God, the Father Almighty, and from thence shall come again at the end of the World, to judge the Quick and the Dead?

And

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And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Catholick Church; the Communion of Saints; the Remission of Sins; the Resurrection of the Flesh; and everlasting Life after Death?

The sick Person shall answer,

All this I stedfastly believe.

¶ Then shall the Minister examine whether he repent him truly of his Sins, and be in Charity with all the World; exhorting him to forgive, from the Bottom of his Heart, all Persons that have offended him, and if he have offended any other, to ask 'em Forgiveness; and where he hath done Injury or Wrong to any Man, that he make amends to the uttermost of his Power. And if he hath not before disposed of his Goods, let him then be admonished to make his Will, and to declare his Debts, what he oweth, and what is owing unto him; for the better discharging of his Conscience, and the Quietness of his Executors. But Men should often be put in remembrance to take order for settling of their temporal Estates, whilst they are in Health.

¶ These Words, before rehearsed, may be said before the Minister begin his Prayer, as he shall see Cause.

¶ The Minister should not omit earnestly to move such sick Persons as are of Ability, to be liberal to the Poor.

¶ Here shall the sick Person be moved to make a special Confession of his Sins, if he feel his Conscience troubled with any weighty Matter. After which Confession, the Priest shall Absolve him (if he humbly and heartily desire it) after this sort.

OUR Lord Jesus Christ, who hath left Power to his Church, to absolve all Sinners who truly repent, and believe in him,

him, of his great Mercy forgive thee thine Offences ; and by his Authority committed to me, I absolve thee from all thy Sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Ghost. *Amen.*

¶ *And then the Priest shall say the Collect following,*

Let us pray.

O Most merciful God, who according to the Multitude of thy Mercies, dost so put away the Sins of those who truly repent, that thou remembrest them no more ; open thine Eye of Mercy upon this thy Servant, who most earnestly desireth Pardon and Forgiveness. Renew in *him* (most loving Father) whatsoever hath been decay'd by the Fraud and Malice of the Devil, or by *his* own carnal Will and Frailness ; preserve and continue this sick Member in the Unity of the Church ; consider *his* Contrition, accept *his* Tears, aswage *his* Pain, as shall seem to thee most expedient for *him*. And forasmuch as *he* putteth *his* full Trust only in thy Mercy ; impute not unto *him* *his* former Sins ; but strengthen *him* with thy blessed Spirit ; and when thou art pleased to take him hence, take *him* unto thy Favour, through the Merits of thy most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then*

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¶ *Then shall the Minister shall say this Psalm.*

In te, Domine, speravi, Psal. 71.

IN thee, O Lord, have I put my Trust,
let me never be put to Confusion: But
rid me, and deliver me in thy Righteous-
ness; incline thine Ear unto me, and save
me.

Be thou a strong Hold, whereunto I
may always resort: Thou hast promised to
help me, for thou art my House of De-
fence, and my Castle.

Deliver me, O my God, out of the Hand
of the ungodly; out of the Hand of the
unrighteous and cruel Man.

For thou, O Lord, art the thing that I
long for: Thou art my Hope, even from
my Youth.

Through thee have I been holden up
ever since I was born: Thou art he that
took me out of my Mother's Womb; my
Praise shall always be of thee.

I am become as it were a Monster unto
many: But my sure Trust is in thee.

O let my Mouth be filled with thy Praise;
that I may sing of thy Glory and Honour
all the Day long.

Cast me not away in the Time of Age:
For sake me not when my Strength faileth
me.

F

For

For mine Enemies speak against me, and they that lay wait for my Soul take their Counsell together, saying, God hath forsaken him, persecute him, and take him; for there is none to deliver him.

Go not far from me, O God: my God, hast thee to help me.

Let them be confounded and perish, that are against my Soul: Let them be covered with Shame and Dishonour, that seek to do me Evil.

As for me, I will patiently abide alway: and will praise thee more and more.

My Mouth shall daily speak of thy Righteousness and Salvation: For I know no end thereof.

I will go forth in the Strength of the Lord God: And will make mention of thy Righteousness only.

Thou, O God, hast taught me from my Youth up until now: Therefore will I tell of thy wondrous Works.

For sake me not, O God, in mine old Age, when I am grey-headed: until I have shewed thy Strength unto this Generation, and thy Power to all them that are yet for to come.

Thy Righteousness, O God, is very high, and great Things are they that thou hast done: O God, who is like unto thee?

Glory

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be : World without end. *Amen.*

¶ *Adding this :*

O Saviour of the World, who by thy
Cross and precious Blood hast re-
deemed us, save us and help us, we hum-
bly beseech thee, O Lord.

¶ *Then shall the Minister say,*

THE Almighty Lord, who is a most
strong Tower to all them that put
their Trust in him, to whom all things in
Heaven, in Earth, and under the Earth do
bow and obey, be now, and evermore thy
Defence, and make thee know and feel;
that there is none other Name under Hea-
ven given to Man, in whom, and thro'
whom thou mayest receive Health and Sal-
vation, but only the Name of our Lord Je-
sus Christ. *Amen.*

¶ *And after that shall say,*

UNto God's gracious Mercy and Pro-
tection we commit thee. The Lord
bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make
his Face to shine upon thee, and be gra-
cious unto thee. The Lord lift up his
Countenance upon thee, and give thee
Peace, both now and evermore. *Amen.*

The Communion of the Sick.

‘**F**Orasmuch as all mortal Men be subject to many sudden Perils, Diseases and Sickneses, and ever uncertain what Time they shall depart out of this Life; therefore, to the intent they may be always in a readiness to die, whensoever it shall please Almighty God to call them, the Curates shall diligently from Time to Time (but especially in the Time of Pestilence, or other infectious Sickneses) exhort their Parishioners to the often receiving of the holy Communion of the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ, when it shall be publicly administered in the Church; that so doing: they may in case of sudden Visitation, have the less Cause to be disquieted for lack of the same. But if the sick Person be not able to come to the Church, and yet is desirous to receive the Communion in his House; then he must give timely Notice to the Curate, signifying also how many there are to communicate with him, (which shall be three, or two at the least) and having a convenient Place in the sick Man’s House, with all Things necessary so prepared, that the Curate may reverently minister, he shall there celebrate the holy Communion, beginning with the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, here following.

The Collect.

‘**A**Lmighty everlasting God, Maker of Mankind, who dost correct those whom thou dost love, and chastise every one whom thou dost receive; We beseech thee to have Mercy upon this thy Servant visited with thine hand, and to grant that he may take his Sickness patiently, and re-

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cover *his* bodily Health (if it be thy gracious Will) and whensoever *his* Soul shall depart from the Body, it may be without Spot presented unto thee, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Epistle, Heb. 12. 5.

MY Son, despise not thou the Chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him. For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth; and scourgeth every Son whom he receiveth.

The Gospel, St. John 5. 24.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my Word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting Life, and shall not come into Condemnation; but is passed from Death unto Life.

- ¶ *After which, the Priest shall proceed according to the Form prescribed for the holy Communion, beginning at these Words, [Ye that do truly]*
- ¶ *At the Time of the Distribution of the holy Sacrament, the Priest shall first receive the Communion himself, and after minister unto them that are appointed to communicate with the sick, and last of all to the sick Person.*
- ¶ *But if a Man, either by reason of Extremity of Sickness, or for want of Warning in due Time to the Curate, or for lack of Company to receive with him, or by any other just Impediment, do not receive the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, the Curate shall instruct him, that if he do truly repent him of his Sins, and stedfastly believe that Jesus Christ hath suffered Death upon the Cross for him, and shed his Blood*

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for his Redemption, earnestly remembering the Benefits he hath thereby, and giving him hearty Thanks therefore, he doth eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ profitably to his Soul's Health, although he do not receive the Sacrament with his Mouth.

- ¶ When the sick Person is visited, and receiveth the holy Communion all at one time, then the Priest, for more Expedition, shall cut off the Form of the Visitation at the Psalm [In thee, O Lord, have I put my Trust] and go straight to the Communion.
- ¶ In the Time of the Plague, Sweat, or such other like contagious Times of Sicknes or Diseases, when none of the Parish or Neighbours can be gotten to communicate with the Sick, in their Houses, for fear of the Infection, upon special Request of the Diseased, the Minister may only communicate with him.
- ¶ At the Time of the Celebration of the Communion, the Communicants being conveniently plac'd for the receiving of the holy Sacrament, the Priest shall say this Exhortation.

DEarly beloved in the Lord, ye that mind to come to the holy Communion of the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ, must consider how *St. Paul* exhorteth all Persons diligently to try and examine themselves, before they presume to eat of that Bread, and drink of that Cup. For as the Benefit is great, if with a true penitent Heart, and lively Faith, we receive that holy Sacrament, (for then we spiritually eat the Flesh of Christ, and drink his Blood; then we dwell in Christ, and Christ in us; we are one with Christ, and Christ with us:) so is the Danger great, if we receive the same unworthily. For then we are guilty of the Body and Blood

The Communion of the Sick. 71

of Christ our Saviour; we eat and drink our own Damnation, not considering the Lord's Body; we kindle God's Wrath against us; we provoke him to plague us with divers Diseases, and sundry kinds of Death. Judge therefore your selves, Brethren, that ye be not judged of the Lord; repent you truly for your Sins past; have a lively and stedfast Faith in Christ our Saviour; amend your Lives, and be in perfect Charity with all Men; so shall ye be meet Partakers of these holy Mysteries. And above all things ye must give most humble and hearty Thanks to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, for the Redemption of the World by the Death and Passion of our Saviour Christ; both God and Man, who did humble himself even to the Death upon the Cross, for us miserable Sinners, who lay in Darkness, and the Shadow of Death, that he might make us the Children of God, and exalt us to everlasting Life. And to the end that we should alway remember the exceeding great Love of our Master, and only Saviour Jesus Christ, thus dying for us, and the innumerable Benefits which by his precious Blood-shedding he hath obtained to us; he hath instituted and ordained holy Mysteries as Pledges of his Love, and

72 *The Communion of the Sick.*

for a continual Remembrance of his Death, to our great and endless Comfort. To him, therefore, with the Father, and the holy Ghost, let us give (as we are most bounden) continual Thanks, submitting our selves wholly to his holy Will and Pleasure, and studying to serve him in true Holiness and Righteousness all the Days of our Life. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest say to them that come to receive the holy Communion,*

YE that do truly and earnestly repent you of your Sins, and are in Love and Charity with your Neighbours, and intend to lead a new Life, following the Commandments of God, and walking from hence in his holy Ways; draw near with Faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your Comfort; and make your humble Confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your Knees.

¶ *Then shall this general Confession be made, in the Name of all those that are minded to receive the holy Communion, by one of the Ministers, both he and all the People kneeling humbly upon their Knees, and saying,*

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all Things, Judge of all Men; we acknowledge and bewail

The Communion of the Sick. 73

bewail our manifold Sins and Wickedness, which we from Time to Time most grievously have committed, by Thought, Word and Deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy Wrath and Indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our Misdoings; the Remembrance of them is grievous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable. Have Mercy upon us, have Mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in Newness of Life, to the Honour and Glory of thy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall Priest (or the Bishop, being present) stand up, and turning himself to the People, pronounce this Absolution.*

ALmighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great Mercy hath promised Forgiveness of Sins to all them that with hearty Repentance and true Faith turn unto him; have Mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your Sins, confirm and strengthen you in all Goodness, and bring you to everlasting Life, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then*

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¶ *Then shall the Priest say,*

Hear what comfortable Words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him.

COME unto me, all that travel and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you, *St. Matth. 11. 28.*

So God loved the World, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting Life, *St. John 3. 15.*

Hear also what *St. Paul* saith.

This is a true Saying, and worthy of all Men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the World to save Sinners, *1 Tim. 1. 15.*

Hear also what Saint *John* saith.

If any Man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the Propitiation for our Sins, *1 St. John 2. 1.*

¶ *After which the Priest shall proceed, saying,*

Lift up your Hearts.

Answe. We lift them up unto the Lord.

Priest. Let us give Thanks unto our Lord God.

Answe. It is meet and right so to do.

¶ *Then*

The Communion of the Sick. 75

¶ *Then shall the Priest say,*

IT is very meet, right, and our bounden Duty, that we should at all Times and in all Places give Thanks unto thee, O Lord, * Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

** These Words,
[Holy Father]
must be omitted
on Trinity Sunday.*

¶ *Here shall follow the proper Preface, according to the Time, if there be any specially appointed; or else immediately shall follow,*

Therefore with Angels and Arch-angels, and with all the Company of Heaven, we laud and magnifie thy glorious Name, evermore praising thee, and saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and Earth are full of thy Glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. *Amen.*

¶ *Proper Prefaces.*

¶ *Upon Christmas-Day, and seven Days after.*

BEcause thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born as at this Time for us, who by the Operation of the Holy Ghost was made very Man, of the Substance of the Virgin *Mary* his Mother, and that without Spot of Sin, to make us
clean

76 *The Communion of the Sick.*

clean from all Sin. Therefore with Angels, &c.

¶ *Upon Easter-Day, and seven Days after.*

BUT chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious Resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord: For he is the very Paschal Lamb which was offered for us, and hath taken away the Sin of the World; who by his Death hath destroyed Death, and by his rising to Life again, hath restor'd us to everlasting Life. Therefore, &c.

¶ *Upon Ascension-Day, and seven Days after.*

THROUGH thy most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who after his most glorious Resurrection manifestly appeared to all his Apostles, and in their Sight ascended up into Heaven to prepare a place for us; that where he is, thither we might also ascend, and reign with him in Glory. Therefore, &c.

¶ *Upon Whitsunday, and six Days after.*

THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord; according to whose most true Promise the Holy Ghost came down as at this Time from Heaven with a sudden great Sound, as it had been a mighty Wind, in the Likeness

The Communion of the Sick. 77

ness of fiery Tongues, lighting upon the Apostles, to teach them, and to lead them to all Truth, giving them both the Gift of divers Languages, and also Boldness with fervent Zeal, constantly to preach the Gospel unto all Nations, whereby we have been brought out of Darkness and Error into the clear Light and true Knowledge of thee, and of thy Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, &c.

¶ *Upon the Feast of Trinity only.*

WHO art one God, one Lord ; not one only Person, but three Persons in one Substance. For that which we believe of the Glory of the Father, the same we believe of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, without any Difference or Inequality. Therefore, &c.

¶ *After each of which Prefaces, shall immediately be sung or said,*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the Company of Heaven, we laud and magnifie thy glorious Name, evermore praising thee, and saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and Earth are full of thy Glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. *Amen.*

¶ *Then*

78 *The Communion of the Sick.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest, kneeling down at the Lord's Table, say, in the name of all them that shall receive the Communion, this Prayer following.*

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own Righteousness, but in thy manifold and great Mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the Crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose Property is always to have Mercy; Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his Blood, that our sinful Bodies may be made clean by his Body, and our Souls washed through his most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

¶ *When the Priest standing before the Table, hath so ordered the Bread and Wine, that he may with the more Readiness and Decency break the Bread before the People, and take the Cup into his Hands, he shall say the Prayer of Consecration as followeth.*

ALmighty God, our heavenly Father who of thy tender Mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer Death upon the Cross for our Redemption, who made there (by his one Oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient Sacrifice, Oblation, and Satisfac-
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The Communion of the Sick. 79

on for the Sins of the whole World, and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue a perpetual Memory of that his precious Death, until his coming again; Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee, and grant that we receiving these thy Creatures of Bread and Wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy Institution, in Remembrance of his Death and Passion, may be Partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood: Who, in the same Night that he was betrayed, (a) took Bread, and when he had given Thanks, (b) he brake it, and gave it to his Disciples, saying, Take, eat, (c) this is my Body which is given for you, Do this in Remembrance of me. Likewise after Supper (d) he took the Cup, and when he had given Thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this, for this (e) is my Slood of the New Testament which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of Sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. *Amen.*

(a) Here the Priest is to take the Paten into his hands.

(b) And here to break the Bread.

(c) And here lay his hand upon all the Bread.

(d) Here he is to take the Cup into his Hand.

(e) And here to lay his Hand upon every Vessel (being Chalice or Flagon) in which there is any Wine to be consecrated.

¶ *Then*

80 *The Communion of the Sick.*

¶ *Then shall the Minister first receive the Communion in both kinds himself, and then proceed to deliver the same to the Bishops, Priests and Deacons in like manner (if any be present) and after that to the People also in order, into their Hands, all meekly kneeling. And when he delivereth the Bread to any one, he shall say,*

THE Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy Body and Soul unto everlasting Life. Take and eat this in Remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy Heart by Faith with Thanksgiving.

¶ *And the Minister, that delivereth the Cup to any one, shall say,*

THE Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy Body and Soul unto everlasting Life. Drink this in Remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

¶ *If the consecrated Bread or Wine be all spent before all have communicated, the Priest is to consecrate more, according to the Form before prescribed: Beginning at [Our Saviour Christ in the same Night, &c.] for the Blessing of the Bread, and at [Likewise after Supper, &c.] for the Blessing of the Cup.*

¶ *When all have communicated, the Minister shall return to the Lord's Table, and reverently place upon it what remaineth of the consecrated Elements, covering the same with a fair Linen Cloth.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest say the Lord's Prayer, the People repeating after him every Petition.*

Our

The Communion of the Sick. 81

OUR Father which art in Heaven;
Hallowed be thy Name. Thy King-
dom come. Thy Will be done in Earth,
as it is in Heaven. Give us this Day our
daily Bread. And forgive us our Trespases,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into Temptation; but de-
liver us from Evil. For thine is the King-
dom, the Power, and Glory, for ever and
ever. *Amen.*

¶ After shall be said as followeth,

O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy
humble Servants entirely desire thy
Fatherly Goodness, mercifully to accept
this our Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgi-
ving; most humbly beseeching thee to
grant, that by the Merits and Death of thy
Son Jesus Christ, and through Faith in his
Blood, we and all thy whole Church may
obtain remission of our Sins, and all other
Benefits of his Passion. And here we offer
and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves,
our Souls and Bodies, to be a reasonable,
holy, and lively Sacrifice unto thee; hum-
bly beseeching thee, that all we who are
partakers of this holy Communion, may
be fulfilled with thy Grace and heavenly
Benediction. And although we be unwor-
thy through our manifold Sins to offer un-

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82 *The Communion of the Sick.*

to thee any Sacrifice; yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden Duty and Service; not weighing our Merits, but pardoning our Offences, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the Unity of the holy Ghost, all Honour and Glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, World without end. *Amen.*

¶ *Or this.*

Almighty and everlasting God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy Mysteries, with the spiritual Food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy Favour and Goodness towards us; and that we are very Members incorporate in the mystical Body of thy Son, which is the blessed Company of all faithful People; and are also Heirs thro' hope of thy everlasting Kingdom, by the Merits of the most precious Death and Passion of thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy Grace, that we may continue in that holy Fellowship, and do all such good Works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the

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The Communion of the Sick. 83

the Holy Ghost, be all Honour and Glory,
World without end. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall be said or sung.*

GLORY be to God on high, and in Earth
Peace, good Will towards Men. We
praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee,
we glorifie thee, we give Thanks to thee
for thy great Glory, O Lord God, heavenly
King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesus
Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son
of the Father, that takest away the Sins of
the World, have Mercy upon us. Thou
that takest away the Sins of the World,
have Mercy upon us. Thou that takest
away the Sins of the World, receive our
Prayer. Thou that sittest at the right
Hand of God the Father, have Mercy up-
on us.

For thou only art Holy, thou only art
the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the
Holy Ghost, art most high in the Glory of
God the Father. *Amen.*

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¶ *Then the Priest or Bishop (if he be present) shall let them depart with this Blessing.*

THE Peace of God which passeth all Understanding, keep your Hearts and Minds in the Knowledge and Love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*



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*Proper Collects that may be
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LET thy merciful Ears, O Lord, be open to the Prayers of thy humble Servants, and that we may obtain our Petitions, make us to ask such Things as shall please thee, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord.

IN the midst of Life we are in Death; of whom may we seek for Succour but of thee, O Lord, who for our Sins art justly displeased; yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter Pains of eternal Death. Thou knowest, Lord, the Secrets of our Heart, shut not thy merciful Ears to our Prayers; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not at the last Hour, for any Pains of Death to fall from thee.

O Merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life, we beseech thee to raise us from the Death of Sin to the Life of Righteousness, that at the general Resurrection in the last Day, we may be found acceptable in thy Sight, and may have our perfect Consummation and Bliss, both in Body and Soul, in thy eternal Glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grant we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil Deeds do worthily deserve to be punish'd, by the Comfort of thy Grace may mercifully be relieved, thro' our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

O Most mighty God, and merciful Father, who hast Compassion upon all Men, and hatest nothing that thou hast made, who wouldest not the Death of a Sinner, but that he should rather turn from his Sin and be saved, mercifully forgive us our Trespases; receive and comfort us, who are grieved and wearied with the Burden of our Sins. Thy Property is always to have Mercy, to thee only it appertaineth to forgive Sins. Spare us there-
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fore, good Lord, spare us, whom thou hast redeemed. Enter not into Judgment with thy Servants, who are vile Earth, and miserable Sinners, but so turn thine Anger from us, who meekly acknowledge our Vileness, and truly repent us of our Faults, and so make haste to help us in this World, that we may ever live with thee in the World to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God the Creator and Preserver of all Mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all Sorts and Conditions of Men, that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy Ways known unto them, thy saving Health unto all Nations; more especially we pray for the good Estate of the Catholick Church, that it may be so guided and govern'd by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians, may be led into the Way of Truth, and hold the Faith in Unity of Spirit, in the Bond of Peace, and in Righteousness of Life; finally, we commend to thy fatherly Goodness, all those who are any Ways afflicted or distressed in Mind, Body or Estate; (especially him for whom our Prayers are desired) that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several

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Necessities, giving them Patience under their Sufferings, and a happy Issue out of all their Afflictions, and this we beg for Jesus Christ his sake.

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear, than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve; pour down upon us the abundance of thy Mercy, forgiving us those Things whereof our Conscience is afraid, and giving us those good Things which we are not worthy to ask, but thro' the Merits and Mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, merciful Father, that despisest not the sighing of a contrite Heart, nor the desire of such as be sorrowful; mercifully assist our Prayers that we make before thee in all our Troubles and Adversities whensoever they oppress us, and graciously hear us, that those Evils which the Craft and Subtilty of the Devil, or Men worketh against us, be brought to nought, and by the Providence of thy Goodness, they may be dispersed, that we thy Servants being hurt by no Persecutions (or Afflictions) may evermore give Thanks unto thee in thy holy Church, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. We

WE beseech thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon our Infirmities, and for the Glory of thy Name, turn from us all those Evils that we most righteously have deserved, and grant that in all our Troubles we may put our whole Trust and Confidence in thy Mercy, and evermore serve thee in Holiness and Pureness of Living, to thy Honour and Glory, thro' our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALmighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender Love to Mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, to take upon him our Flesh, and to suffer Death upon the Cross, that all Mankind should follow the Example of his great Humility; mercifully grant, that we may both follow the Example of his Patience, and also be made Partakers of his Resurrection, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALmighty God, the Fountain of all Wisdom, who knowest our Necessities before we ask, and our Ignorance in asking, we beseech thee to have Compassion upon our Infirmities, and those Things which for our Unworthiness we dare not,
and

and for our Blindness we cannot ask, vouchsafe to give us, for the Worthiness of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A general Prayer for the Acceptance of our Devotions for the Sick.

From Bishop Andrews.

O Lord, it is a great Presumption that one Sinner should dare to commend another to thy Divine Majesty, especially the greater Sinner, the less. And who would not fear to undertake it? But thy Commandment it is, *That we should pray for the sick Members of thy Church, and mourn with them that mourn:* And thou hast promised that our Prayers thus made, thou wilt receive. And now behold, O Lord, we that are no way meet, but unworthy, utterly unworthy, to ask for ought, for our selves, Charity and Compassion so binding us, are enforced to become Suitors to thee for others, even for this thy Servant, now afflicted by thee. To thee we hope; to thee we desire; to thee we entreat and pray, in the most meek and humble Manner, and even from the bottom of our Hearts. O Lord, that which thou mightest justly deny to our Unworthiness, deny not, we beseech thee, to thine own gracious Goodness. O Lord forgive

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give us our Sins, O Lord forgive us our Sins, our great and grievous Sins, oft and many Times committed, long and many years continued, so that we may be meet to pray for others, and our Prayers be made unto thee in an acceptable Time.

Graciously look upon our Afflictions.
Pitifully behold the Sorrows of our Hearts.

Mercifully forgive the Sins of thy People.

Favourably with Mercy hear our Prayers.

Both now and ever vouchsafe to hear us,
O Christ.

Graciously hear us, O Christ, graciously hear us, O Lord Christ. *Amen.*

¶ *Particular Prayers for the Sick.*

*From Bishop
Patrick.*

O Most gracious God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ, hast knit us all together in one Body, that we should love one another, and if one Member suffers, all the Members should suffer with it; we humbly implore thy tender Mercies towards this thy Servant, of whose afflicted Condition we desire to have a compassionate Sense and Feeling.

Look

Look graciously upon him, O Lord, and visit him with thy Salvation. Vouchsafe him such Consolations from above, as we should desire for our selves, were we in his Estate. Give him a true penitent Heart for all the Offences he hath at any Time committed; together with a lively Faith in thy Son Jesus, who came into the World to save Sinners. Give him the Comfort of a holy Hope, that thou accepteſt his Repentance, and faithful Devotion to thee. Support him by this Hope, under all his Pain, and enable him patiently to submit to thy fatherly Correction. Send him help now in time of Need, both for his Soul and for his Body. Bless the Means for his Recovery; and if it be thy good Pleasure restore him speedily to his former Health, together with a serious Resolution in his Heart, to serve thee more zealously all his Days.

Or if thou haſt otherwise resolved in thy wise Counſels; deliver him from the Fear of Death, aſſiſt him in his laſt Agony, give him an eaſie and chearful Paſſage out of this Life, and ſend thy holy Angels to conduct him into Reſt and Peace, with our Lord Jesus: For the ſame Jesus Chriſt's ſake. *Amen.*

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I.

From Bishop
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ALmighty God, Father of Mercies, the God of Peace and Comfort, of Rest and Pardon; we thy Servants, in Duty to thee, and Charity to our *Brother*, humbly beg Mercy of thee for *him*, to descend upon *his* Body, and *his* Soul. We come to thee in the Name of Jesus, praying thee to pardon the Sins of this thy Servant, and to put them all upon the Accounts of the Cross, and to bury them in the Grave of him that died for us, that they may never rise up in Judgment against *him*, nor bring *him* in the Day of Trial to Shame and Confusion of Face.
Amen.

II.

GIVE thy Servant, O Lord, Patience in *his* Sorrows, Comfort in *his* Sickness, and restore *him* to Health, if it seem good to thee. And however thou shalt determine concerning *him* in this Affair, yet make *his* Repentance perfect, and *his* Faith strong, and *his* Hope stedfast, and *his* Passage safe; that when thou shalt call *his* Soul from the Prison of the Body, it may enter into the Rest of the Sons of God, and the Bosom of Blessedness, and be with the Holy Jesus. *Amen.*

III. O

III.

O Lord, thou knowest all the Necessities, and all the Infirmities of thy Servant: Fortifie *his* Soul with spiritual Joys, and perfect Resignation; and take from *him* all inordinate Affections to this World; and enlarge his Heart with Desires of being with thee, and of Freedom from Sin, and of the Fruition of God. *Amen.*

IV.

Lord, let not any Pain or Passion discompose the Order of *his* Thoughts, or *his* Duty; and lay no more upon thy Servant than thou wilt make *him* able to bear; and together with the Temptation do thou provide a Way to escape; even by the Mercies of a longer, and more holy Life; or by the Mercies of a blessed Death, even as it pleaseth thee, O Lord, so let it be. *Amen.*

V.

Lord, let the Tenderneſs of *his* Conscience, and the Spirit of God, call to mind *his* Sins, that they may be confessed and repented of: And let thy powerful Grace remove from *his* Soul every Root of Bitterneſs; and in the Union of the holy Jesus, and in the Love of God, and in the

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the Communion of all the Saints, let *his* Soul be presented to thee blameless, and entirely pardon'd, and thoroughly washed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

VI.

O Holy, most gracious Saviour, in whose Hands the Souls of all faithful People are laid up 'till the Day of Recompence, have Mercy upon the Soul and Body of this thy Servant, refresh *him* with the Aids of the Spirit of Grace of Comfort, and supply all *his* Necessities known only unto thee. Let *him* dwell in Peace, feeling thy Pardon, supported by thy Goodness, absolved by thy Sentence, and saved by thy Mercy; that whenever *his* Soul shall go out from the Body, it may be received by Angels, and preserved from evil Spirits, and laid up in thy Bosom; and that at the Day of thy second coming, *his* Body may be raised up with Power to behold for ever the Face of God, in the Glories of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *A larger Form of Prayer for the Sick.*

*From Bishop
Patrick.*

O Lord, the Father of our Spirits, who givest us Life and Breath, and all Things, and hast not thought

96 *Prayers for the Sick.*

a Crown of everlasting Life too much to promise us, we believe that thou wilt not deny us what is needful and fit for us, both for our Souls and our Bodies, in our Passage through this World, to that Honour, Glory and Immortality. In this Confidence, we more particularly recommend this thy sick Servant to thy infinite and most compassionate Mercy. Settle in *his* Soul a stedfast Faith, that thou dost not willingly grieve the Children of Men, but intendest good to *him* by this thy fatherly Correction. And now that all other Pleasures and Enjoyments fail *him*, represent thy self more effectually unto *him*, as the only Support and Stay of his Hope, and Rock of Salvation. Wherein-soever *he* hath neglected thee, or committed any Offence against thee, make *him* deeply sensible of it, and heartily sorrowful for all his Transgressions. And as *he* earnestly desires Pardon and Forgiveness of thee, so work in *him* a serious Resolution, to live more circumspectly and righteously for the Time to come. Assist *him* graciously, O Lord, that he may give a Proof of *his* sincere Intentions, hereafter to submit *himself* in all Things to thy Will, by *his* patient Submission to thy fatherly Correction now. O that *he* may so quietly, so meekly, so humbly, and chearfully, resign
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his Will unto thee, to suffer what thou inflictest, that *he* may be the more disposed to do readily whatsoever thou commandest. For which End, make him thoroughly apprehensive of thy Sovereign Power and Authority over all Creatures. Possess *him* with a great Reverence of thy Wisdom and Justice; with an entire Confidence in thy Goodness and Love, and with a thankful Remembrance of all thy past Mercies to *him*, that so *he* may the better endure what thou layest upon *him* at present, and may ever chuse to follow thy Directions, and submit to thy Orders, and delight to do thy Will, O God.

Bless the Remedies which are used for the restoring *him* to his former Health, that *he* may live to perform *his* Duty with greater Care. Or if thou hast otherwise appointed, accept graciously of *his* Purposes of Amendment, and dispose *him* to return back *his* Spirit willingly unto thee who gavest it; and with great Humility, and deep Sense of *his* own Undeservings, to expect thy Mercy declar'd in Christ Jesus. Fix *his* Mind stedfastly upon him, who hath led the Way thro' the Grave unto Heaven, that *he* may not be affrighted with the Approaches of Death, but looking beyond it to that high and holy Place,
H where

where the Lord Jesus is, may rejoice in Hope of eternal Glory.

And grant that every one of us, in our best Estate of Health, may consider perpetually how frail and weak we are. That so we may not abuse our selves by an intemperate Use of any sensual Pleasures, nor load our Minds with the Cares of this Life, nor spend our Days in a vain pursuit of the Honour and Glory of this World: But may pass all the Time of our Sojourning here in Fear, and may live so righteously and soberly in this present World, as becomes those who expect shortly to give an Account to thee, who wilt judge all Men according to their Works. Hear us, O Lord, we most humbly beseech thee, through Christ Jesus our merciful and compassionate High Priest, who sits at thy right Hand, and lives for ever to make Intercession for us. *Amen.*

A Ssist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our Supplications and Prayers, and dispose the Way of thy Servants towards the Attainment of everlasting Salvation; that among all the Changes and Chances of this mortal Life, they may ever be defended by thy most gracious and ready Help, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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O Lord, bless, keep, and defend this thy Servant with thy heavenly Grace and Benediction, that *he* may continue thine for ever, and daily increase in thy holy Spirit more and more, until *he* comes to thy everlasting Kingdom.

From Dr.
Hammond.

Let thy mighty Hand and out-stretch'd Arm, O Lord, be ever *his* Defence; thy Mercy and loving Kindness in Jesus Christ thy dear Son, *his* Salvation; thy true and holy Word, *his* Instruction; thy Grace and holy Spirit, *his* Comfort and Consolation, both now and at the Hour of Death.

NOW the God of Peace, that *brought again from the dead* our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the Sheep, through the Blood of the everlasting Covenant, make you perfect in ev'ry good Work to do his Will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his Sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be Glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Heb. 13.
20, 21.

¶ *Proper Psalms for the Sick.*

I.

O Lord rebuke me not in thine Indignation: neither chasten me in thy Displeasure, *Psal. 6. 1.*

2. Have Mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am weak: O Lord heal me, for my Bones are vexed, *Psal. 6. 2.*

3. My Soul also is sore troubled: but Lord how long wilt thou punish me? *Psal. 6. 3.*

4. Thine Arrows stick fast in me; and thy Hand presseth me sore, *Psal. 38. 2.*

5. There is no Health in my Flesh, because of thy Displeasure: neither is there any Rest in my Bones by Reason of my Sin, *Psal. 38. 3.*

6. For my Wickednesses are gone over my Head: and are like a sore Burden too heavy for me to bear, *Psal. 38. 4.*

7. I am feeble, and sore smitten: I have roared for the very Disquietness of my Heart, *Psal. 38. 8.*

8. My Heart panteth, my Strength hath failed me: and the Sight of mine Eyes is gone from me, *Psal. 38. 10.*

9. Therefore is my Spirit vexed within me: my Heart within me is desolate, *Psal. 143. 4.*

10. Turn

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Proper Psalms for the Sick. 101

10. Turn thee, O Lord, and deliver my Soul: O save me for thy Mercies sake, *Psal.* 6. 4.

11. For in Death no Man remembreth thee; and who will give thee Thanks in the Pit? *Psal.* 6. 5.

12. Hide not thy Face from me in the Time of my Trouble: incline thine Ears unto me when I call; O hear me, and that right soon, *Psal.* 102. 2.

13. For my Days are consumed away like Smoke: my Heart is smitten down and withered like Grass, *Psal.* 102. 3, 4.

14. And that because of thine Indignation and Wrath: for thou hast lifted me up and cast me down, *Psal.* 102. 10.

15. But I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of mine Age: as for thy Years, they endure throughout all Generations, *Psal.* 102. 24.

16. Wherefore in thee, O Lord, have I put my Trust: Thou shalt answer for me, O Lord, my God.

II.

P S A L. LI.

HAVE Mercy upon me, O God, after thy great Goodness: according to the Multitude of thy Mercies do away mine Offences.

H 3

2 Wash

102 *Proper Psalms for the Sick.*

2. Wash me thoroughly from mine Iniquity: and cleanse me from my Sin.

3. For I acknowledge my Faults: and my Sin is ever before me.

4. Against thee only have I sinned, and done this Evil in thy Sight: that thou mightest be justified in thy Saying, and clear when thou art judged.

5. Behold, I was shapen in Wickedness: and in Sin hath my Mother conceived me.

6. But lo, thou requirest Truth in the inward Parts: and shalt make me to understand Wisdom secretly.

7. Thou shalt purge me with Hyssop, and I shall be clean: Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than Snow.

8. Thou shalt make me hear of Joy and Gladness; that the Bones which thou hast broken may rejoyce.

9. Turn thy Face from my Sins; and put out all my misdeeds.

10. Make me a clean Heart, O God: and renew a right Spirit within me.

11. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

12. O give me the Comfort of thy Help again: and stablish me with thy free Spirit.

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Proper Psalms for the Sick. 103

13. Then shall I teach thy Ways unto the Wicked : and Sinners shall be converted unto thee.

III.

HEAR my Prayer, O Lord, and consider my Desire : hearken unto me, for thy Truth and Righteousness sake, *Psal.*

143. 1.

2. And enter not into Judgment with thy Servant : for in thy Sight shall no Man living be justified, *Psal.* 143. 2.

3. The Sacrifice of God is a troubled Spirit : a broken and contrite Heart, O God, thou wilt not despise, *Psal.* 51. 17.

4. Lord, thou knowest all my Desire : and my Groaning is not hid from thee, *Psal.* 38. 6.

5. I stretch forth my Hands unto thee : my Soul gaspeth unto thee as a thirsty Land, *Psal.* 143. 6.

6. Hear me, O Lord, and that soon, for my Spirit waxeth faint : hide not thy Face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the Pit, *Psal.* 143. 7.

7. Hasten thee to help me, O Lord God of my Salvation, *Psal.* 38. 22.

8. For thou art a Place to hide me in, thou shalt preserve me from Trouble : thou shalt compass me about with Songs of Deliverance, *Psal.* 32. 8.

104 *Protestations for the Sick.*

9. Into thy Hands I commend my Spirit;
for thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God
of Truth, *Psal. 31. 5.*

Glory be to the Father, &c.
As it was in the beginning, &c.

¶ *A Protestation of Faith, which may be
repeated by the Sick, after giving his As-
sent to the Creed.*

From Bp.
Cofins.

IN this Faith, which I do un-
feignedly Believe, as a true Mem-
ber of Christ's Catholick Church, do I pro-
pose to finish my Life, and if ought shall
happen through the Violence of my Sick-
ness, or the Suggestions of my ghostly Ene-
mies, whereby I shall come to think, say,
or do, any Thing contrary to this holy
Faith and Purpose, I do here revoke it be-
fore-hand, and protest from my Soul, e-
ven before Christ and his holy Angels, that
I give no Consent thereunto; giving most
humble and hearty Thanks unto my lo-
ving Creator and Redeemer, that by the
wonderful Goodness of his Bounty, he hath
vouchsafed to bring me to the Knowledge of
this Faith in him; which with my Soul
and Body, I commend into his most holy
and merciful Hands, now, and at the Hour
of my Death. *Amen.*

¶ *Also*

¶ *Also this Protestation of Forgiveness.*

From Bp.
Cofins.

I Do farther most humbly desire all, and every one, whom I have offended, that they would vouchsafe to forgive me. And I do freely and heartily forgive all the World, wherein soever any hath offended me, or done me any manner of Injury whatsoever, even as I desire to be forgiven of God, and to be absolved from my Sins, for the Merits of my blessed Redeemer. *Amen.*



Occasional Prayers

FOR THE

S I C K.

¶ *A Prayer for a Person in the beginning of his Sicknefs.*

From Pp.
Taylor.

O Almighty God, merciful and gracious, who in thy Justice didst send Sorrow and Tears, Sicknefs and Death into the World, as a Punishment for Man's Sin; and hast comprehended all under Sin, and this sad Covenant of sufferings, not to destroy us, but that thou mightest have Mercy upon all, making thy Justice to minister to Mercy, short Afflictions to an eternal Weight of Glory; as thou hast been pleased to turn the Sins of this thy Servant into Sicknefs, so turn, we beseech thee, his Sicknefs to the Advantage

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vantage of Holiness and Religion, of Mercy and Pardon, of Faith and Hope, of Grace and Glory. Thou hast now called *him* to the Fellowship of Sufferings; Lord, by the means of thy Religion, let *his* present Condition be so sanctified, that *his* Sufferings may be united to the Sufferings of *his* Lord; that so thou mayst pity and assist *him*, relieve *his* Sorrow and Support *his* Spirit, direct *his* Thoughts, and sanctifie the Accidents of *his* Sickness; that the Punishment of *his* Sin may be to *him* a School of Vertue; in which since thou hast now entered *him*, Lord make *him* an holy Proficient; that *he* may behave *himself* as a Son under Discipline, humbly and obediently, evenly and penitently, that *he* may be brought by this means nearer to thee; that if *he* shall go forth of this Sickness by the Gate of Life and Health, *he* may return to the World with great Strength of Spirit, to run a new Race of a stricter Holiness, and a more severe Religion; or if *he* pass from hence thro' the Gates of Death, *he* may enter into the Bosom of *his* Lord, and may feel the present Joys of certain Hope of that Sea of Pleasures, in which all thy Saints and Servants shall be comprehended to eternal Ages. Grant this, for Jesus Christ his sake, our dearest Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

108 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick*

¶ *A Prayer for Thankfulness in Sickneſs.*

O God, wonderful both in thy Mercies and Judgments! Grant that the Senſe of thy Servant's preſent Afflictions, may not cauſe him to forget thy former Mercies, which thou haſt poured out to him (*and to us all*) unworthy of them: O therefore let the remembrance of thoſe many and great Bleſſings he hath ſo long enjoy'd at thy hands, be now the proper Motives and Incentives to his Virtues of Patience and Humility, cauſing him chearfully to reſign himſelf to thy bleſſed Will, under all the diſpenſations of thy Providence, tho' never ſo hard; and patiently to wait for the return of thy loving Kindneſs in Jeſus, which is better than Life. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for a Bleſſing on the Means us'd for a ſick Perſon's Recovery.*

From Mr.
Kettlewell.

O Gracious Lord, by whoſe Word Man lives, and not by any human Means alone, direct we pray thee the Counſels of thoſe, who preſcribe to this thy Servant, and proſper the Medicines which are uſed to procure *him* Eaſe and Strength, but let not *his* Confidence

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 109

dence in them lessen any thing of *his* Dependance on thee, but make *him* sensible that every good Gift is from thee, and that it is thou that givest us Help in Time of need: To whom therefore, but to thee, should we flee in the Day of our Visitation? Since it is thy Blessing only that maketh the Means we use effectual; and however vain the use of them is without thee, if thou biddest them, the Things or Accidents which we don't think of, or set least by, shall recover us. O, therefore, as their part, who administer to *him*, is the Care, so let thine, O God, be the Blessing, and *his* the Comfort: and as *he* regards them as thy Instruments, so let *him* own thee for the Author of *his* Mercies, and to thee give Thanks, and pay *his* Vows and Services, thro' our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for a sick Person when there appears some hope of Recovery.*

From Bp.
Patrick.

WE thank thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, that thou hast heard our Prayers for thy afflicted Servant, and given *him* some Respite and Hopes of Recovery from this great Illness. Blessed be thy Goodness!
That

110 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

That *he* hath not made *his* Bed in the Dust, but is likely to continue still amongst us, in the Land of the Living. Blessed be thy Goodness, for so great (*and lately unexpected*) Mercy to *him*.

And O thou Preserver of Men, who hast begun to revive and quicken *him* again; go on to perfect that which belongs to *his* Cure, and forsake not the Work of thy own Hands. Repair all the Decays in *his* outward Man, that *his* Mind may also recover its former Strength, to praise and bless thy Goodness to *him*.

And visit *him* in the mean time with thy heavenly Consolation from above. Fill *him* with comfortable Thoughts of thy Love, and of the tender compassionate Care which our Lord Jesus takes of all his afflicted Servants. Endue *him* still with more patient Submission to thy Will, and enable *him* both quietly to wait upon thee, till thou hast finished *his* Recovery, and also to continue stedfastly resolv'd to serve thee more faithfully with *his* restored Strength, through Jesus Christ our most blessed Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. III

¶ *Another in behalf of the sick Person, when he finds any Abatement of his Distemper.*

A ccept, O Lord, of the unfeigned Thanks of thy Servant for abating the Fury of *his* present Distemper, and giving *him* some Hopes of raising *him* up again to praise thee in the great Congregation.

It is a great Mercy, O Lord, and owing to thy Goodness only, that *his* Senses are preserved entire, and that *he* hath some Respite, after so much Uneasiness and Tossings to and fro, thro' the Violence of *his* Illness.

O perfect (if it be thy Blessed Will) what thou hast begun in *him*, and say to the Distemper, *It is enough.*

Teach *him* from hence to look up to thee continually, as the Rock of *his* Salvation from whence only *he* is to expect Comfort and Support: And give *him* Grace always to make such a right use of thy Favours, that *he* may daily find *himself* surrounded by the Light of thy Countenance, and enjoy the Blessings of thy heavenly Benediction in all *his* Ways, whether in Adversity

112 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

versity or Prosperity, in Sicknes or in Health. Even so blessed Lord continue to assist, strengthen, comfort and bless him, both now and for evermore, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord.

¶ *A Prayer for one who is dangerously Ill.*

O Almighty God, *Gracious and Merciful, and Long-suffering, whose Compassions fail not*, look down we beseech thee, upon the low and distressed State of thy Servant, now lying in the Extremity of Sicknes. The harder *his* Illness presses upon *him*, the louder does it call upon thee for Help. O be merciful therefore unto *him*, according to the Necessity of *his* Case, and according to the Multitude of thy tender Mercies in Jesus Christ. Rebuke the Distemper, that it prevail not over *him* to Death, but turn his malevolent Aspect into a joyous Expectation of Life. In as great Danger as *he* is, yet if thou wilt, O Lord, we know thou canst make *him* whole; if thou speakest the Word, it shall be done. In Submission therefore to thy most wise and good Disposal of all Things, we beg this Mercy at thy Hands, that thou wouldst let

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 113

this bitter Cup pass away from thy Servant, and cause a Way for him to escape out of this dangerous Condition. O spare him a little, and his Soul shall live. Amen.

¶ *A Prayer for a sick Person when Sicknes continues long upon him.*

From Bp.
Patrick.

Look down, O Lord, we humbly beseech thee, with an Eye of Compassion on thy poor distressed Servant, who hath lain so long under the heavy Wrath of thy Displeasure, and by how much the outward Man is decayed and brought low, by the Tedioufness of the Distempers continuing on *him*; by so much the more do thou be pleased to assist *him* in the inner Man, by the gracious Assistance of thy holy Spirit. Give *him* unfeigned Repentance for all the Errors of *his* past Life, and stedfast Faith in thy Son Jesus Christ; a comfortable Assurance of the Truth of all his precious Promises, a lively Hope of that immortal Bliss in which he Reigns for evermore, and a strong Sense of thy fatherly Love to *him*, and Care over *him*, under this *his* sore Affliction, which may make *him* heartily love thee, and entirely confide in thee, and absolutely resign both Soul and Body to thy wise Disposal.

114 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

We know there is nothing too hard for thee, but that if thou wilt thou canst bring *him* up even from the Gates of Death, and grant *him* a longer Continuance among us. May it be thy good Pleasure, O most gracious God, still to continue *him*; spare *him*, O Lord, and deliver *him* also speedily from this Misery, under which *he* hath so long groaned. Bless all the Means that are used for *his* Recovery, and for the support of *his* Spirits, and give *him* Refreshment during this tedious Sicknes. Release *him* from *his* Pain, or grant *him* some Ease, or else increase and strengthen *his* Patience. Help *him*, in Remembrance of thy past loving Kindness, to trust in thy Goodness, and submit to thy Wisdom, and bear with an equal Mind what thou thinkest fit to lay upon *him*; and he approving *himself*, to thee, in these and all other Vertues, while thou tryest *him* by so fore an Affliction, may say at the last, with the holy Psalmist, *It was good for me that I was in Trouble.*

Unto thy infinite Mercies we recommend *him*, and to the compassionate Kindness of our Lord Jesus Christ, who we hope will hear all the Prayers of *his* Friends for *him* every where, and send his good Spirit to be *his* Comforter, and *his* good Angels to be *his* Guardians, and direct those

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 115

those who are to advise and prescribe the Means of *his* Restoration, and bring *him* to praise thee again in the Assemblies of thy Saints upon Earth; or if thou hast otherwise disposed in thy wise Counsels, to praise thee in the great Assembly of Saints and Angels in Heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord and only Saviour, to whom with thee and the holy Spirit, be all Praise, Love and Obedience, World without end. *Amen.*

¶ *Prayers for the Grace of Patience, and a suitable Behaviour in a Sick Person to Friends and Attendants.*

HELP thy Servant, O thou merciful Redeemer and Lover of Souls, to undergo this Load of Affliction, which thou hast laid upon *him*, with Patience. *Lead him gently by the Hand to the Waters of Comfort, and let thy Rod and thy Staff support him, now that he is obliged to walk in the Valley and Shadow of Death.*

Let *him* consider thee, O blessed Jesus, in all thy weary Pilgrimage and Sufferings here upon Earth, before thou enteredst into Glory, *that he be not weary and faint in his Mind.*

If Relief does not come from thee, so soon as *he* expects, or desires, enable *him* still

116 Occasional Prayers for the Sick.

still to hold out with Long-suffering, and to wait with Patience for it. And whatsoever thou dost with *him*, O Lord, let *him* be *dumb*, and not *open his Mouth* to murmur or repine, because it is *thy Doing*. Make *him* to acquiesce and rest satisfied, even in the bitterest Dispensations of thy Providence. And let no Pains or Sufferings ever drive *him* from thee, considering that no *Temptation hath befallen him*, but *what is common to Men*, and that the *same Afflictions* are accomplished in his *Brethren*, that are in the *World*.

And together, with this Patience towards thee, give *him* Patience, O merciful Lord, towards all those, who friendly and charitably minister to *him*, and attend about *him*.

Keep *him* from being humourfome, and shewing Crossness to their good Counsels, or from being causelessly Angry and Exceptionous against their kind Endeavours. If any evil Accidents, or Indiscretions happen, let *him* not presently be outrageous to aggravate them, or break out into any reproachful and unseemly Behaviour against them; but let *him* be pleased with the least Expression of their Kindness, and interpret every Thing favourably, and on all Occasions let *him* make it *his Study* to oblige those who are obliging to *him* in this Time

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From Dr.
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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 117

of Necessity, receiving with Thankfulness their good Offices, and praying God to reward them, for his Son Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen.

¶ *Prayer for Spiritual Improvements by
Sickness.*

From Dr.
Inet.

O Merciful Father, who scourgest those thou lovest, and chastisest those thou wilt receive: Let thy loving Correction purge out all the Dross of thy Servant, and make *him* great in thy Favour by *his* present Humiliation. O let *him* learn *thy Statutes*, in this School of *Affliction*: Let *him* seek thee early in it, and when *his Heart* is overwhelm'd, Lead him to the Rock that is higher than he.

Let thy Rod awaken *him* from *his* former Security in Sin, and let *him* sensibly find, that thou chastisest him for his Profit, that he may be partaker of thy Holiness.

Teach *him* by this Proof of thy fatherly Correction, to be more dutiful for the Time to come; to repent of *his* former Miscarriages, and to redeem the Time past, by a double Diligence for the future, if thou shalt in Mercy raise *him* up again. Let the Remainder of *his* Life be thine, and let nothing separate *him* from thy Love and Service, but let it be *his* whole Care and Study

118 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

dy to provide Oyl for *his* Lamp, and to trim and adorn *his* Soul for Eternity, That *so all the Days of his appointed Time he may wait till his Change come, and be ready whensoever his Lord shall call him. Amen.*

¶ *For a Sick Person, who is about to make his Will.*

O Lord, who puttest into our Hearts good Desires, and hast inclined thy Servant to *set his House in Order*, as well in relation to *his* temporal, as *his* spiritual Concerns, grant that *he* may do it with exact Justice, according to the Rules of *his* holy Religion, and the Dictates of right Reason. *He* unfeignedly thanks thee for thy great Mercies, in having so liberally provided for *him*, that he may be rather helpful than chargeable to any, and die a Benefactor, and not in Debt.

We charitably hope, that what *he* is now about to dispose of, was all procur'd by fair and righteous Dealings, that *he* may comfortably feel, that *it is more blessed to give than to receive.*

But if *his* Conscience accuse *him* of any thing unjustly gotten, O let *him* confess it, and *bring out the accursed Thing with Achan*, and do Glory to God and *his* self, before *he* goes hence, and be no more seen.

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 119

Let *him* be ready, with good *Zacheus*, to make Restitution in the best manner *he* is capable of, and to say with *Samuel*,

Behold here I am, witness against me before the Lord; whose Ox have I taken, or whose Ass have I taken, or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed, or of whose Hand have I received any Bribe to blind mine Eyes therewith, and I will restore it?

Lord give *him* Strength to order all Things in as due and regular a Manner, as if *he* was well. Let *his* Memory be perfect, and *his* Judgment sound, and *his* Heart so rightly disposed, that *he* may do nothing amiss, or thro' Partiality, but that Justice and Integrity may be seen thro' the whole Conduct of *his* Will.

Let the Light of his Charity ^{*If Rich, add this.*} likewise shine gloriously before Men, that out of the Abundance thou hast been pleas'd to bless *him* with, *he* may plentifully give to the poor and distressed, though no otherwise related to *him*, but as they are Members of Jesus Christ, and Brethren and Sisters of the same Communion.

Let *him*, O let *him*, now, O Lord, and at all Times, if thou should'st graciously continue *him* here any longer, make to

120 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

himself such Friends of the unrighteous Mammon, that when they fail, they may receive him into everlasting Habitations. Amen.

¶ *A Prayer for a sick Penitent.*

From Mr.
Kettlewell.

Righteous art thou, O God, in all the Pains and Sorrows which punish our Sins, and try our Patience, and we have none to accuse or complain of for the same but our selves. This is the Acknowledgment which thy Servant makes, whom thou hast now afflicted. *He* receives it as the Chastisement of a Sinner, and is willing to bear Chastisement for *his* Sins, that *he* may thereby be reclaimed from them. Correct *him*, O Lord, that thou may'st not condemn *him*, and let *him* be judged by thee for *his* Sins, and judge *himself* for them here, that *he* may have nothing but Mercy, without Judgment, to receive at thine Hands hereafter.

But judge *him*, O God, with Mercy, and not in thine Anger. Judge *him* not according as *his* Sins have deserved, but according as *his* Weakness can bear, and according as thy Compassions are wont to mitigate thy Judgments; and let *his* Afflictions work in *him* a true Repentance, *not to be repented of*, and prove an happy Means, in the
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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 121

Hand of thy Mercy, to expiate *his* Guilt, not to encrease it, and to reclaim *him* perfectly from all the Evils which *he* hath committed formerly, not to occasion *his* committing more, and to confer that Rest and Peace upon *his* Soul, which is denied to *his* Body, for our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ his sake.

THOU smitest *him*, O gracious God, that thou mayest cure *him*; and punishest *his* Sin, that thou mayest thereby amend and reclaim *his* Person: And *he* is weary of *his* Sins, which have brought upon *him* all these Sorrows, and which he seems now deeply sensible of, will bring infinitely worse, unless *he* prevents the same, by *his* timely and sincere Repentance of them.

Help *him* therefore to search them out, O God, and to discover every accursed Thing: And when *he* sees them, let *him* not stop at any one, but set *himself* entirely to renounce and amend all: Let thy Love make *him* hate every evil Way, and make *his* Purposes against them strong and resolute, and *his* Care in fulfilling the same, vigilant and patient; and at the Remainder of *his* Days, to be one continued Defacement of *his* former Errors, and Devotion of *himself* to thy Service.

Lord,

122 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

Lord, cure *his* Folly by *his* Misery, and teach *him*, by the Loss of *his* Ease, to purchase the Blessing of true Repentance, and the comfortable Hopes of thy merciful Acceptance thereof, thro' the Merits of our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for a sick Person, who intends to receive the blessed Sacrament.*

O Thou Infinite and Eternal Spirit, from whom every good Motion of our Heart proceedeth! Who both quickenest the Dead, and after thou hast given Life, givest the Increase: Increase, we beseech thee, the good Seeds of thy Grace, which thou hast sown in the Heart of thy Servant, by inclining *him* to receive the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord, in which thou art more immediately present, to illuminate the Faithful, and to comfort and refresh all that are weary and heavy laden with their Sins.

Come down, O Lord, as *Fire*, upon all that are thus heavenly minded, to consume their Dross, and purify their Affections, and to enflame them with Scraphical Love, that (with St. Peter, in his Transfiguration) upon coming to thy heavenly Banquet, they may say in Extasies of Joy and Admiration, *It is good for us to be here.*

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 123

O cause thy Face thus comfortably to shine upon thy distressed Servant, who now intends to draw near to thee in this Sacrament, as thou hast commanded him. Let *his* Soul be satisfied as with Marrow and Fatness, when *he* shall praise thee there with joyful Lips.

Help *him* in the mean time, O Lord, to fit and prepare *himself* for the due Reception of such holy Mysteries. Fill *his* Soul with all Reverence and godly Fear; with earnest Desires and Longings after the Divine Life; with serious Repentance for all *his* past Miscarriages, and hearty Resolutions of living for ever after unto Jesus, who died for *him*. O let *him* receive a broken and a bleeding Saviour, with a *broken and contrite Heart*, which thou hast promised *not to despise*. Forgive *him* all that is past, and give *him* Grace for the future, to *live more soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present World*, if it shall be thy good Pleasure to continue *him* in it.

Raise *his* Affections from Earth to Heaven, and let *him* hunger and thirst after Righteousness, as *he* was wont to do after *his* bodily Sustenance.

As the Hart panteth after the Water-Brooks; so let *his* Heart now pant after thee, O God; that with Desire he may desire
to

124 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

* *This to be omitted when the following is added by the Minister.*

to eat this Passover,
* *and be filled with*
all spiritual Joys and
Consolations from
thenceforth for evermore. Amen.

¶ *This may be added by the Minister, who intends to give the Sacrament to him.*

AND to me, O Lord, whom thou hast called to this high Honour of administering thy holy Sacraments, give thy Grace and heavenly Benediction, that *I may do all things as I ought, through Christ strengthening me.*

Magnify thy Power, O Lord, in my Weakness; and thou that givest the Increase, command a Blessing, I pray thee, to descend upon the Work of my Ministry; that this Sacrament, to be administered to thy Servant, now crying mightily to thee for Help, may turn to *his* everlasting Benefit, as well as to the Salvation of my self, and of all that shall charitably receive with *him*. Grant this, O blessed Spirit, for the sake of that Jesus, whom we are about to commemorate in this holy Ordinance. *Amen.*

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 125

¶ A Prayer for a sick Person that
wants Sleep.

From Bishop
Patrick.

ADored be thy Love, thy wonderful Love, O most gracious God, who hast so many Ways expressed thy Bounty towards us. Thy Mercies in Christ Jesus surpass all our Thoughts; nor are we able to number all the other Blessings thou hast bestow'd upon us. How much do we owe thee for the quiet Sleep of but one Night? We see in this thy poor afflicted Servant, how much we ought to thank thee for this single Blessing; that our Eyes, when we would close them, are not held waking.

Pardon, good Lord, our foul Ingratitude for this and all the rest of thy undeserved

Mercies; and be pleased graciously also to visit * *him*, who still languishes on *his* Sick-bed, looking up to thee, from whom cometh our Help. Renew *his* wasted Spirits with comfortable Sleep; compose *him* to a sweet and undisturb'd Rest, refresh *him* thereby so sensibly, that *he* may be restor'd to such a Degree of Strength, as may make *him* able in some Measure, affectionately to acknowledge thy Goodness, when thou hast dealt so bountifully with *him*. Or if thou delayest

to

126 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

to bestow that Blessing on *him*, O God, that in the multitude of *his* Thoughts within *him*, thy Comforts may delight *his* Soul. If *he* be still tofs'd upon a wearisome Bed, without any Rest, O that *his* Mind may rest, and repose it self in the Bosom of thy dearest Love, and may feel the most sensible Consolations from Heaven, not only quieting, but greatly rejoicing *his* Heart. Preserve the use of *his* Understanding, and let the Enemy have no Advantage of *him*, but make *him* able to say, *I will wait patiently for the Lord, 'till he incline*

Psal. 40. 1. & 39.
12, 13.

his Ear unto me, and bear my Cry. O bear his Prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto

his Cry: O spare him, that he may recover Strength before he go hence and be no more. Amen, for Jesus Christ his sake. Amen.

¶ *A Prayer to be said when the sick Person grows Light-headed.*

From Bishop
Patrick.

O Lord, look down from Heaven, in much Pity and Compassion, upon this thy afflicted Servant, who is not able now to look up unto thee. The sadder *his* Condition grows, the fitter Object it is of thy infinite tender Mercies; who acceptest, we believe, of the Submission *he* made of *himself*, in the
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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 127

beginning of *his* Sickness, to thy Almighty Wisdom and Goodness. And therefore since it is thy Pleasure to suffer *his* Distemper to proceed to this dangerous Extremity, thou wilt no less graciously love *him*, and delight in *him*, than if *he* could still give up *himself* to thy blessed Will.

And hear, O most merciful Father, our Prayers in *his* behalf; excite them also to a greater Ardency than ever for *him*, now that *he* can no longer commend *himself* to thy Mercies. Pardon, good Lord, pardon all *his* Sins; impute not to *him* any of *his* former Follies; lay not to *his* Charge *his* not improving, or any ways misusing of *his* Reason and Understanding, which we earnestly, but humbly intreat thee to restore to *him*, together with such a Measure of thy divine Grace, as may quicken and assist *him* then to employ *his* Thoughts to the best Purposes, especially in meditating of thy Mercies, in studying thy Praise, and in exhorting all others to love thee, and trust thee, and sincerely obey thee.

And while *he* remains thus deprived of *his* Reason, be pleased to quiet and compose *his* Spirits, or to prevent all furious Motions there, or quickly to abate such violent Passions, if any arise: For which end, be pleased to remove all frightful Imaginations
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128 Occasional Prayers for the Sick.

far from *him*, and suffer not the evil one to approach *him*; preserve *him* from doing any

Harm, either to *himself* or to any other; Forsake *him* not,

O Lord our God, be not far from *him*. Make haste to help *him*, O Lord our

Salvation. He is poor and needy, but the Lord thinketh on *him*. Thou

art our Helper and Deliverer, make no tarrying, O our God.

So will we give Thanks unto thee for ever.

We will be still praising thee, and shewing forth thy Loving-Kindness to those who succeed us.

That they may set their Hope in thee our God, and not forget thy Works, but keep thy Commandments.

Amen, Amen. Make us all so happy, for Jesus Christ his sake. Amen.

¶ A Prayer for a Person when Danger is apprehended by excessive Sleep.

From Mr. Kettlewell.

O Merciful God, let not this deep Sleep, which is fallen on thy Servant, prove the Sleep of Death; make it the Sleep of a recovering Person, to relieve and revive *him*, not to carry *him* off: and awake *him* out of it in thy due Time, to offer thee Praise, and to labour still among us, in doing thee Honour and Service.

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 129

But if thou hast order'd thereby to take *him* to thy self, Lord, remember and accept of all *his* former Prayers and Repentance, Faith and Patience.

Look not upon *his* Sins but to pardon them, nor on *his* Weaknesses, but to pity them: And when he awakes in the next World, let him find himself surrounded with Light and Bliss, instead of *his* sick-Bed Sorrows, and awake to eternal Life with thee in Glory.

Lord hear us, for this thy weak Servant in Distress; Hear our Prayers for *him*, who seems not able now to offer up any Prayers to thee for *himself*. And accept both *him* and us, to the blessed Enjoyment of thy Love, and Hopes of thy Mercies, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for a Person lying insensible on a sick Bed.*

O Thou Preserver of Men, who knowest the Frailty of our Constitutions; how soon our Senses may fail us, and our Understanding depart from us: To what Accidents, Distempers, and Decays, our weak Nature is subject; even such as may make the most Acute and Judicious, quickly become as Fools, and the most able and strong as weak as Water, and as insensible

130 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

as that inanimate Being ; look down we beseech thee upon thy poor Servant, who now lies in such a weak and insensible Condition.

The less able *he* is to do for *himself*, the more need hath *he* of our Prayers, and of thy tender Mercy to *him*. O thou great Creator of the World, who broughtest Light out of Darknes, and madest all Things out of nothing, and shalt restore our dead Bodies again after they are mouldred into Atoms, be pleased to repel the Clouds of Darknes which now have taken away the Light of our Brother's Understanding, and rendered *him* a Companion for the Dead.

Quicken *him* again, O Lord, and restore *him* to *his* former Senses, that *his* Soul may bless and praise thy holy Name. For *in Death no Man remembereth thee, and who will give thee Thanks in the Pit ?*

Hear our Petition therefore, O Lord, and receive our Prayer for our *Brother* ; that this Image of Death may not be converted into Death it self ; but that *he* may live to proclaim thy Power, and to celebrate thy Praises here amongst us, longer upon Earth.

But if it be thy Will to remove *him* hence, in this Lethargical Condition, O pardon, we

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 131

we beseech thee, all *his* Offences, and accept of that Preparation and Repentance *he* was able to make, before the Distemper prevail'd upon *him* in so deadly a manner. Receive *him*, O Lord, into the Arms of thy Mercy, and accept *him* for thy well-beloved Son's sake; that so this short Night may quickly be turn'd into everlasting Day; and after these dark Shadows are remov'd, *he* may find *himself* in an Heaven of Happiness, where in *thy* Light *he* may see Light for ever. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for one who hath been a notorious wicked Liver.*

O Lord God of infinite Goodness and Compassion! whose Mercies are over all thy Works; who makest the *Sun* to shine, and the *Rain* to descend upon the *unjust* as well as the *just*, and art kind even to the most unthankful: We humbly beseech thee to look down in Mercy upon this thy unworthy Servant, who hath so long *trampled upon the Riches of thy Goodness, not knowing that the Goodness of God leadeth to Repentance.*

Let thy Rod therefore awaken *him* now to a Sense of *his* Condition, whom thy Goodness hath not reclaim'd, and let *him*

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still find Mercy at thy Hands, notwithstanding *his* continued Abuse of it.

Thou hast promised, O Lord, *that when the wicked Man turneth away from his Wickedness that he hath committed, and doth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his Soul alive.* O make good this thy Promise to thy Servant here, who stands in so much need of it.

Hide thy Face from his Sins, and blot out all his Iniquities. Though they be *red as Scarlet*, yet do thou make them *white as Snow*, by Repentance, which we beg of thee to give *him*, and to accept, though late, for the Merits of thy dearly beloved Son.

Simon Magus, though in *the Gall of Bitterness, and the Bond of Iniquity*, was bid to repent, and to pray for Pardon, and therefore we hope the Gate of Life is still open for our *Brother*, though *he* hath so long shut *himself* out of it, by going on in a Course that leadeth to the *Chambers of Death*.

Blessed Lord! let thy *Terrors* at length awaken *him* out of this lethargical Condition, before *he* is overtaken by thy Judgments. Afflict *him* here, that thou mayest spare *him* hereafter. Break thou *his* stony Heart, that it may gush out with Waters of

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 133

of Sorrow, to bewail *his* ill-spent Life; and as *Mary Magdalen's* Tears, to wash away the Stain and Filthiness of it.

O quicken *him* to a Sense of *his* Duty, and *his* Danger, before it be too late. And when thou hast brought *him* to *his* right Mind, receive *him*, we beseech thee, as the compassionate Father did his prodigal Son; or the Shepherd his lost Sheep; or as the Master of the Vineyard admitted Labourers into his Service, at the eleventh Hour, and gave them an equal Reward with those who had born the Heat and Burden of the Day; so we beseech thee to admit this thy Servant into the Fellowship of Christ's Flock, and give *him* the Rewards of thy more faithful Servants, out of the Abundance of the Riches of thy Goodness to repenting Sinners, in Jesus Christ.

Thou, O Lord, who didst pardon the Thief upon the Cross, hear our Prayers for our *Brother*, in these his sick-bed, and for ought we know, *his* last Agonies.

And as the fore-mention'd Instances are lively Significations of thy unbounded Goodness, and were written for our Comfort and Instruction, that none should despair of Pardon; so with the greater Confidence we now recommend this our dis-

134 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

stressed *Brother* to thy divine Protection, beseeching thee to forgive all that is past, and to wash him with the Blood of thy Son, and to receive *him* at last into thy everlasting Habitations. Amen.

¶ *A Prayer for one who is hardened and impenitent.*

LORD God Almighty, who art the Father of our Spirits, and who turnest the Hearts of Men as thou pleasest; who hast Mercy on whom thou wilt have Mercy, and whom thou wilt thou hardenest! Let thy merciful Ears be open, we pray thee, to the Supplications which we now offer to thy Divine Majesty, in the behalf of this thy Servant, who appears utterly insensible of *his* Sin and Folly, and on whom all Means to lead *him* to Repentance, have hitherto seem'd vain and ineffectual. Take from *him*, we humbly entreat thee, all Ignorance and Hardness of Heart: Remove from *him* all Prejudice against, and Contempt of thy sacred Word and Ministry: Let *him* no longer make a Mock of Sin, but be sensible that the Wisdom he has hitherto gloried in, is the greatest and most dangerous Folly. Open thou *his* Eyes, that he may see the wonderful Things of thy Law. Shew thy Mercy upon *him*, and grant *him* thy

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 135

thy Salvation. Convince *him* of the *Sinfulness of Sin*, and the Vanity and Madneſs, as well as danger of *his* paſt Ways.

His Underſtanding, we fear, is now darkened, and *his* Heart hardened thro' the deceitfulneſs of Sin: O do thou enlighten *his* dark Mind, and let *him* at laſt ſee the Beauties of Holineſs, which have ſo long been hid from *his* Eyes. Take from *him* this *ſtony Heart*, and give him an *Heart of Fleſh*. Awaken *his* ſlumbering and inattentive Soul, that it may delight in Things agreeable to its Nature, and be employ'd in Things that make for its everlaſting Peace. O give *him* Underſtanding, and *he* ſhall yet live. Thou that canſt revive Souls which are dead in Sin and Treaſpaſſes, and make even ſuch as lie in the Grave of Corruption to become glorious Saints, and even Martyrs for Religion, hear our Prayers for our *Brother*, who ſeems to be on the Brink of Deſtruction; and pity poor Sinners, that have not Pity on themſelves.

'Tis the Unhappineſs of a long living in, and being accuſtomed to Sin, that we are not ſoon made ſenſible of our Errors, nor eaſily made to know them. 'Tis the Pride of our Natures to be loth to acknowledge our Faults, and to confeſs our Sins. But let thy Grace, O God, teach us to deny

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this ungodly Lust. Do thou pull down in us all high and vain Imaginations. Crush and suppress all proud Thoughts and haughty Opinions of our selves. Give us all, and particularly thy Servant, whom we are now interceding for, a Sense of our own Vileness. Give us unfeigned Repentance for all the Errors of our Life past; that being cast down, thou mayst raise us up, and become merciful to us miserable Sinners.

Let us all find, by blessed Experience, that *we grow in Grace, and in the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*; and that *his Commandments* are not *grievous* to us, but rather the Delight and Desire of our Souls, that so at last we may be presented to him, *holy and unblameable, and unproveable in his Sight.* Amen.

¶ *A Prayer for a sick Woman that is with Child.*

O God, the Help of all that put their Trust in thee; the Support of the Weak, and the Relief of the Needy. Look with Pity upon this Woman, thy Servant, who at best acknowledgeth *herself* but a weak and helpless Creature, but much more so now in her present Condition,

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 137

on, when thou hast added Weakness to Weakness, and made *her* to travail with much Sickness, together with the Burden of Child-bearing.

O Lord, be thou graciously pleas'd to proportion thy Strength to *her* Weakness, and as Pains and Sorrow take hold upon *her*, inspire her with fresh Vigour and Courage to rely upon thee, *her* only Support in Time of need, and Rock of *her* Salvation.

Let *her* not be disquieted with the fear of any Evil, since none can happen unto *her* without thy Leave; but give *her* Grace patiently to resign *herself* to thy blessed Will in all Things, who knowest what is best for *her*, and wilt lay no more upon *her*, we trust, than thou wilt enable *her* to bear.

Bring Strength, O Lord, out of Weakness, and Health out of Sickness; and make *her*, in thy good Time, a joyful Mother of a hopeful Child, which may do good in its Generation, and be an Instrument of thy Glory here, and a blessed Inhabitant of thy heavenly Kingdom hereafter,

138 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

¶ *A Prayer for a Woman in the Time of her Travail.*

From Bp.
Patrick.

O Most mighty Lord, who hast given us innumerable Pledges of thy Love, and encouraged us to trust in thee for ever, and to expect with quiet and patient Minds the Issue of thy wise and good Providence: We most humbly commend thy Servant in this her Extremity, to thy Care and Blessing; beseeching thee to give her a gracious Deliverance, and to ease her of the Burden wherewith she labours. We our selves are Monuments of that Mercy which we beg of thee. Thou broughtest us into this World, and didst unloose the Bands wherewith we were swaddled in our Mother's Womb. We have also had long Experience of thy Readiness to succour us, and to do us good ever since, many Times beyond our Hopes, and always beyond our Deservings. We dare not but commit our selves, and every Thing belonging unto us, most heartily into thy Hands; remembering that thou hast the same Power and Goodness still, by which we came into the Light of the Living. We cannot desire to be better provided for, than as thy infinite Wisdom judgeth most convenient for us; unto that we
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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 139

refer our selves, beseeching thee (if it be thy good Pleasure) that *her* Deliverance may be as speedy as *her* Cries unto thee; or *her* Patience as great and long as *her* Pains. Thou who ripenest the Fruits of the Earth, and then givest us the gathering of them to our Comfort; blast not, we beseech thee, the Fruit of the Womb; but bring it to Maturity, and deliver it safe into thy Servant's Hand, as a new Pledge of thy Goodness to *her*, to be an Instrument of thy Glory, and a future Comfort and Blessing to thy Servant, who travailes in so much Pain with it now. Or if thou hast otherwise determined, Lord, give *her* Grace to submit to thy holy Will, and to rest satisfied in thy wise Appointments, and never to distrust thy Goodness and Care over *her*. Hear us, O Father of Mercies, and pardon *hers* and all our Offences, and pity our Infirmities: Make us more thankful for what we have received, and more fit for the Blessing which we now request; and prepare us for all thy future Mercies, either in this Life, or in the next: through thy infinite Love and Compassion declared to us, in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

140 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

¶ *A Prayer for a Woman who cannot be delivered without Difficulty and Hazard.*

O Lord God of all Comfort and Consolation, who art the Refuge of the Distressed, and the Help of all that depend upon thee; we thy unworthy Servants do now offer up our Supplications at the Throne of thy Majesty, in the behalf of this thy Servant, who is in great Pain and Misery. Thou hast been pleased to bring the Child to the Birth, but there is not Strength to bring forth. On this Account thy Servant is in violent Agonies, crying out in *her* Pangs, and pouring out *her* Soul to thee in Prayer. O grant that *it may be in a Time when thou mayest be found.*

Thou art our hiding Place; thou shalt preserve us from Trouble; thou shalt compass us about with Songs of Deliverance. O let thy Servant feel these blessed Effects of thy Goodness, and as thou hast brought to the Birth, enable *her*, we beseech thee, to bring forth, that *she* may rejoice in the Workmanship of thy Hands, and tell of all thy wondrous Works.

Consider the low Estate of thine Handmaid, and deliver *her* Soul from Death, *her* Eyes from Tears, and *her* Feet from falling. Gracious, art thou, O Lord, and
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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 141

righteous; thou preservest the simple, and helpest those that are in Misery. Help thy Servant therefore now, we humbly entreat thee, who stands in so much Need of it. Accept her Tears, and assuage her Pain, as shall seem most expedient for her. And forasmuch as she putteth her whole Trust in thee, give her Strength and Patience proportionable to all her Pains and Agonies. Support her Spirits under them, and, if thou pleasest, carry her safely through the same, and make her to hear of Joy and Gladness, that the Bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Restore unto her, O Lord, the Joy of thy Salvation, and uphold her with thy free Spirit. Then shall she teach Transgressors thy Way, and Sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver her from this great Affliction, O God, thou God of her Salvation, and her Tongue shall sing aloud of thy Righteousness.

Thy Mercies and Power are still the same, and will be the same for ever. O let them now be shewn for this thy Servant's Delivery, * as they have been formerly on the same Occasion: That so by having fresh Instances of thy loving-Kindness, she may still praise thee more and more.

** This to be omitted if it be the first Child.*

But

142 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

But if in thy fatherly Providence, to which we pray *she* may willingly submit *herself*, thou hast determined otherwise concerning *her*, thy blessed Will, O our God, be done: dispose of *her* either to Life or Death, as thou plearest, only in both to thy Mercy, whether living or dying let *her* still please thee, and be thou *her* Portion for ever. O perfect *her* Repentance, and purge away all *her* Sins: Give *her* Patience whilst *she* lives, and Peace when *she* dies, and after Death the Happiness to see thy Face in a blessed Eternity, which thou hast promised and prepared for all that love and fear thee. O hear our Prayers, and grant our Requests for thy well-beloved Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for Grace and Assistance for a Woman under the Trials and Sorrows of Childbed.*

O Father of Mercies! what Thanks can we worthily give unto thee for thy unspeakable Goodness to this thy Servant, and *her* helpless Babe, and for the wondrous Things which thou hast done for *her* Soul? For the Pangs and Sorrow of Death compassed *her*, and *she* found Trouble and Sorrow: The Mouth of the Pit was open'd, and ready to shut it

*From Mr.
Kettlewell.*

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 143

it self upon *her*; but thou hast graciously asswaged those Pains, and wrought Deliverance, and turn'd *her* Sorrows into Joys; when *she* cried, thou answeredst *her*, and strengthenedst *her* with Strength in *her* Soul.

Lord, we will ever adore and magnify thy Mercy, which dealt so lovingly with *her*, and praise thy Truth and Faithfulness, which have not suffered thy Promises, or *her* Hopes to fail. We will never forget how mindful thou hast been of the low Estate of thine Hand-maid; for *she* hath felt thy Power, O blessed God! in *her* greatest Weakness, and has been enabled thereby above *her* Strength. *She* has tasted thy Goodness in the midst of all *her* piercing Pangs and Sorrows; for thou didst comfort and support *her* under them, and didst measure them out to *her*, according as *she* could bear them; and in tender Pity didst deliver *her* Soul from Death, and send *her* Ease, yea hast turned *her* Sorrows into Joys, when *she* could bear no more.

Perfect, good Lord, that Deliverance to *her* which thou hast most graciously begun, and let *her* not be lost, after the Wonders which thou hast already done for *her*.

Continue *her* Patience, O Father! and *her* humble Dependance on, and comfortable
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144 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

ble Hope in thee, under any farther Pains and Accidents of *her* Child-bed. Support *her* Spirits under them, and if thou pleasest, carry *her* safely thro' the same, and raise *her* up again in thy due Time. Thy Mercy and Power are still the same, and will be the same for ever: Oh! let them still be shewn for *her* Recovery, as they've been already for *her* Delivery; let them be shewn upon *her*, that *she* may still praise thee more and more; and because she places *her* Safety in thy Love and Care, and puts *her* Hope and Trust in thee.

But if in thy paternal Providence, whereunto we pray *she* may willingly commit *her* self, thou hast determin'd otherwise concerning *her*, thy blessed Will, O our God, be done. Dispose *her* either to Life or Death, as thou pleasest, only in both to thy Mercy; and whether living or dying, let *her* still please thee, and be thou *her* Portion. Oh! perfect *her* Repentance, and purge away all *her* Sins, and give *her* Patience whilst *she* lives, and Peace when *she* dies, and after that the Happiness to see thy Face in a blessed Eternity, which thou hast prepared and promised to all that truly fear thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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¶ *If the Child be living, this may be added.*

PReserve likewise *her* tender Child, O Father of Mercies, and let its own Weakness, and our Cries, commend it to thy blessed Care; [*preserve it to be regenerated, and born again by Baptism, and thereby made thine own Child by Adoption, which is infinitely a greater Blessing both to it and its Parent, than thy making it *her* Child.]

** This to be omitted if the Child is baptized.*

Keep it also afterwards in Health and Safety, and as it increases in Years and Stature, let it withal increase in Wisdom, and in thy Fear. We beg not for it Wealth or Greatness, but Wisdom to know and serve thee. For, O Lord, we do not desire Life, either for our selves or it, but that we may live to thee, and grow in daily Love and Thankfulness for all thy Mercies, and in Faith and Patience, and all holy Obedience, which may fit us all for ever to enjoy thee, through Jesus Christ our only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

146 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

¶ *Prayers for a sick Child.*

*Visitation
Office.*

O Almighty God and merciful Father, to whom alone belong the Issues of Life and Death; look down from Heaven, we humbly beseech thee, with the Eyes of Mercy upon this Child, now lying upon the Bed of Sicknefs: Viſit *him*, O Lord, with thy Salvation; deliver *him* in thy good appointed Time from *his* bodily Pain, and ſave *his* Soul for thy Mercies ſake; that if it ſhall be thy good Pleaſure to prolong *his* Days here on Earth, *he* may live to thee, and be an Inſtrument of thy Glory, by ſerving thee faithfully, and doing good in *his* Generation; or elſe receive *him* into thoſe heavenly Habitations, where the Souls of them that ſleep in the Lord Jeſus enjoy perpetual Reſt and Felicity. Grant this, O Lord, for thy Mercies ſake, in the ſame thy Son our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghoſt, ever one God, World without end. *Amen.*

*Common-Prayer-
Book, beſt Com-
panion.*

A Almighty and immortal God, the Aid of all that need, the Helper of all that flee to thee for Succour, the Life of them that believe, and the Reſurrection of the Dead: We

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 147

We call upon thee for this Child, and as thou hast promised by thy well-beloved Son, saying, *Ask, and ye shall have; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you;* so give now unto us that ask; let us, that seek, find; open the Gate unto us that knock, that this Child may enjoy the everlasting Benediction of thy heavenly Grace, and may come to the eternal Kingdom, which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

DEfend, O Lord, this thy Child with thy heavenly Grace, that *he* may continue thine for ever, and daily increase in thy holy Spirit more and more, until *he* come unto thine everlasting Kingdom. *Amen.*

LORD, pity the Troubles and Weakness of this poor Child, and pity our Sorrows who are afflicted with it, and for it. Ease it of its Pains, and strengthen it when it lies struggling for Life: Raise it up again, if it may please thee, to grow in Years and Stature, and in Wisdom and thy Fear, and thereby to comfort us, and glorifie thee.

*From Mr.
Kettlewell.*

We believe, O Almighty Father, that thou knowest best what is fit, both for it

148 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

and us, and will do what is best for both, and therefore we leave it to thee, to dispose of as thou plearest. But whether it be to Life or Death, let it be thine in both, and either preserve it to be thy true and faithful Servant here on Earth, or take it to the Blessedness of thy Children in the Kingdom of Heaven, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for a Person, who from a State of Health is suddenly taken with the Symptoms of Death.*

O Most gracious Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, Judge of the Living and the Dead, behold thy Servants running to thee for Pity and Mercy, in behalf of our selves and this thy Servant, whom thou hast smitten with thy hasty Rod, and a swift Angel. It was but lately that we beheld *him* in as promising a State of Health and Life, as any one of us seems to be in at present, and therefore our Surprise is so much the greater to behold so sudden a Change, and so unlook'd for an Instance of our frail Mortality.

We know, O Lord, thou canst bring back from the Mouth of the Grave, and as suddenly

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 149

suddenly raise thy Servant again as thou hast cast *him* down, and therefore we think it not too late to implore thy Mercy upon *him* for *his* Recovery; at least we beg of thee to spare *him* a little, that *he* may recover *his* Strength, and have Time to make *his* Peace with thee, *before* he go hence and is no more seen. But if it be thy Will to translate *him* now by a quick Dispatch into another World, O! let the Miracles of thy Compassion, and thy wonderful Mercy, supply to *him* the Want of the usual Measures of Time, to trim and adorn *his* Lamp, and to fit *himself* for Eternity. And let the Greatness of *his* Calamity be a Means to procure *his* Pardon for those Defects and Degrees of Unreadiness, which, it may be, hath caused this Accident upon thy Servant. And teach us all, we beseech thee, from this unexpected Fate of our *Brother*, to be continually upon our Guard, and to watch and pray, since we know not the Hour, when *the Master of the House* cometh, whether at *Even*, or at *Midnight*, or at the *Cockcrowing*, or in the *Morning*.

Lord, thou hast now called thy Servant before *he* was aware of it; O give *him* such a great and effectual Repentance in this *his* Exigence, that in a short Time it may be

150 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

sufficient to do the Work of many Days. Thou regardest, O Lord, the Measures of the Sincerity of our Hearts more than the Measures of Time in our Conversion; accept therefore, we beseech thee, the few Minutes of thy Servants unfeigned Tears and Humiliation for *his* Sins, as though they were Hours or Days of a longer Preparation; and let it be thy Pleasure to rescue him from all the Evils he deserves, and all the Evils he fears, that in the Songs of Eternity, which Angels and Saints shall sing to the Glory of thy Nature, this also may be reckon'd amongst thy invaluable Mercies, that thou hast redeemed this Soul from eternal Death, and made *him* Partaker of the *Gift of God, eternal Life*, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for a sick Person, when there appeareth small Hope of Recovery.*

Visitation-Office.

O Father of Mercies and God of all Comfort, our only Help in Time of need: We fly unto thee for Succour in behalf of this thy Servant here lying under thy Hand in great Weakness of Body. Look graciously upon *him*. O Lord, and the more the outward Man decayeth

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 151

decayeth, strengthen *him*, we beseech thee, so much the more continually with thy Grace and holy Spirit in the inner Man. Give *him* unfeigned Repentance for all the Errors of *his* Life past, and stedfast Faith in thy Son Jesus, that *his* Sins may be done away by thy Mercy, and his Pardon sealed in Heaven, before he go hence, and be no more seen. We know, O Lord, that there is no Word impossible with thee, and that, if thou wilt, thou, canst even yet raise *him* up, and grant *him* a longer Continuance amongst us. Yet for as much as in all Appearance the Time of *his* Dissolution draweth near, so fit and prepare *him*, we beseech thee, against the Hour of Death, that after *his* Departure hence in Peace, and in thy Favour, *his* Soul may be receiv'd into thine everlasting Kingdom, through the Merits and Mediation of Jesus Christ thine only Son, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

¶ *A general Prayer for Preparation and Readiness to Die.*

LORD, *What is our Life but a Vapour, which appears for a little Time, and then vanisheth away?* Even at the longest, how short? And at the strongest, how frail? And when we think our selves

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most secure, yet we know not what a Day may bring forth to turn us out of all; nor how soon thou may'st, come before we are aware, to call us to our last Account.

Quickly shall we be as Water spilt on the Ground, which cannot be gathered up again. Quickly shall we be snatched away from hence, and our Place here shall know us no more for ever.

Our Bodies shall soon lie down in the Grave, and our Souls be summon'd to appear before the Tribunal of Christ, to receive our everlasting Doom either to Bliss or Woe; and yet, O Lord, how do the Generality of Mankind live in this World, as tho' they were never to leave it! How unmindful are we all of our latter End! How improvident of our Time! How careless of our Souls, and negligent in our Preparations for Eternity! So that thou mightest justly cut us off in the midst of our Sins, and our unpreparedness to appear before thee. But O God of all Comfort and Mercy, remember not our Sins against thee, but remember thy own Love to us in Jesus Christ, and thy tender Mercies which have been ever of old. O remember how short our Time is, and *so teach us to number our Days, that we may apply our Hearts unto Wisdom.*

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 153

In the Days of our Health and Prosperity, let us, from the sad Instance of our *Brother's* Weakness, remember our own approaching Fate; and let *him*, from the sudden Change of Health to Sicknes, consider how vain and empty all *his* Days have been, and that there is no other Satisfaction in any Thing but in knowing thee, O God. Lord, what have we to do in this World, but to devote our selves wholly to thy Service, and to make ready for the World to come? O that we may all of us be mindful of this *one Thing necessary*, that we may finish our *Work*, before we finish our *Course*!

Quicken thy Servant, O Lord, into a powerful and serious Consideration of these Things, now thou hast brought *him* into a more intimate Acquaintance with them. Instruct *him*, good Lord, and assist *him* in this great Work of Preparation to die. Shew *him* how to do it, and help *him* with good Success to perform it, that when the Time of *his* Dissolution draweth near, *he* may have nothing else to do, but to resign *himself* cheerfully and willingly into thy Hands, as into the Hands of a merciful Creator, there to remain with thee for ever in that blessed Place, where Sin and Sicknes and Death shall be no more. *Amen.*

154 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

¶ *A Commendatory Prayer for a sick Person
at the Point of Departure.*

*Visitation-
Office.*

○ Almighty God, with whom
do live the Spirits of just Men
made perfect, after they are delivered from
their earthly Prisons; we humbly com-
mend the Soul of this thy Servant our dear
Brother, into thy Hands, as into the Hands
of a faithful Creator, and most merciful
Saviour; most humbly beseeching thee,
that it may be precious in thy sight. Wash
it, we pray thee, in the Blood of that im-
maculate Lamb that was slain to take away
the Sins of the World; that whatsoever De-
filements it may have contracted in the midst
of this miserable and naughty World, thro'
the Lusts of the Flesh, or the Wiles of
Satan, being purged and done away, it
may be presented pure and without Spot
before thee. And teach us, who survive
in this and other like daily Spectacles of
Mortality, to see how frail and uncertain
our own Condition is, and so to number
our Days, that we may seriously apply our
Hearts to that holy and heavenly Wisdom,
whilst we live here, which may in the End
bring us to Life everlasting, through the
Merits of Jesus Christ thine only Son our
Lord. *Amen.*

¶ A

Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 155

¶ *A Litany for a sick Person, at the time of Departure.*

O God the Father of Heaven, From Bishop Andrews.
Have Mercy upon *him*.

Keep and defend *him*.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the World,
Have Mercy upon *him*.

Save and deliver *him*.

O God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from
the Father and the Son,
Have Mercy upon *him*.

Strengthen and comfort *him*.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,
Have mercy upon *him*.

Remember not, Lord, *his* Offences: call
not to Mind the Offences of his Forefathers:
but spare *him*, good Lord, spare thy Ser-
vant, whom thou hast redeemed with thy
precious Blood, and be not angry with *him*
for ever.

From thy Wrath, and heavy Indignati-
on; from the Fear of Death; from the
Guilt and Burden of *his* Sins, and from the
dreadful Sentence of the last Judgment,

Good Lord deliver him.

From the Sting and Terrors of Consci-
ence; from the Danger of Impatience, Di-
strust, or Despair; and from the Extremi-
ty of Sickness, Anguish or Agony, that
may

156 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

may any Way withdraw *his* Mind from thee,

Good Lord deliver him.

From the bitter Pangs of eternal Death; from the Gates of Hell; from the Powers of Darknes; and from the Illusions and Assaults of our Ghostly Enemy,

Good Lord deliver him.

From all Danger and Distress; from all Terrors and Torments; from all Pains and Punishments, both of the Body and the Soul,

Good Lord deliver him.

By thy manifold and great Mercies; by the manifold and great Merits of Jesus Christ thy Son; by his Agony and bloody Sweat; by his strong Crying and Tears; by his bitter Cross and Passion; by his mighty Resurrection, and glorious Ascension; by his effectual and most acceptable Intercession and Mediation; and by the Graces and Comforts of the Holy Ghost,

Good Lord deliver him.

In this Time of Extremity; in *his* last and greatest Need; in the Hour of Death, and in the Day of Judgment,

Good Lord deliver him.

✠ We Sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to be *his* Defender and Keeper; to remember

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 157

ber *him* with the Favour thou bearest unto thy People, and to visit *him* with thy Salvation ;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to save, and deliver *his* Soul from the Power of the Enemy, and to receive it to thy Mercy, and to give *him* a quiet and joyful Departure ;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to be merciful, and to forgive all *his* Sins and Mis-deeds, which at any Time of *his* Life *he* hath committed against thee ;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee not to lay to *his* Charge, what in the Lust of the Flesh, or in the Lust of the Eyes, or in the Pride of Life, *he* hath committed against thee ;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee not to lay to *his* Charge, what in the Fierceness of *his* Wrath, or in vain and idle Words *he* hath committed against thee ;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to make *him* Partaker of all thy Mercies, and Promises in Christ Jesus.

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to vouchsafe *his* Soul the Estate of Joy, Bliss, and Happiness,

158 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*
ness, with all thy blessed Saints, in thy
heavenly Kingdom ;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant *his* Bo-
dy Rest and Peace, and a Part in the blessed
Resurrection of Life and Glory ;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the
Sins of the World ;

Grant him thy Peace.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the
Sins of the World,

Have Mercy upon him.

O Saviour of the World, } as p. 160.
Unto thy gracious,

¶ *Forms of Recommending the Soul to God,
in her Departure from the Body.*

From Bp. *Cosins.* **I** NTO thy merciful Hands, O
Lord, we commend the Soul
of this thy Servant, now departing from
the Body : Acknowledge, we meekly be-
seech thee, a Work of thine own Hands, a
Sheep of thine own Fold, a Lamb of thine
own Flock, a Sinner of thine own Redeem-
ing. Receive *him* into the blessed Arms of
thy

Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 159

thy unspeakable Mercy, into the sacred Rest of everlasting Peace, and into the glorious Estate of thy chosen Saints in Heaven.

Amen.

God the Father, who hath created thee; God the Son, who hath redeemed thee; God the holy Ghost, who hath infused his Grace into thee; be now, and evermore thy Defence, assist thee in this thy last Trial, and bring thee into the Way of everlasting Life. *Amen.*

Christ that redeemed thee with his Agony and bloody Death, have Mercy have thee, and strengthen thee in this Agony of Death. *Amen.*

Christ Jesus that rose the third Day from Death, raise up thy Body again in the Resurrection of the Just. *Amen.*

Christ that ascended into Heaven, and now sitteth at the right Hand of God, bring thee to the Place of eternal Happiness and Joy. *Amen.*

God the Father, preserve and keep thee; God the Son, assist and strengthen thee; God the Holy Spirit, defend and aid thee; God the Holy Trinity, be ever with thee; that thy Death may be precious in the Sight of the Lord, with whom thou shalt live for evermore. *Amen.*

160 *Occasional Prayers for the Sick.*

I.

From Bp.
Taylor.

O Holy and most gracious Jesus, we humbly recommend the Soul of thy Servant into thy Hands, thy most merciful Hands: Let thy blessed Angels stand in Ministry about thy Servant, and defend *him* from the Violence and Malice of all his ghostly Enemies, and drive far from hence all the Spirits of Darknes. *Amen.*

II.

Lord receive the Soul of this thy Servant: Enter not into Judgment with *him*; spare *him* whom thou hast redeem'd with thy most precious Blood, and deliver *him* (for whose Sake thou didst suffer Death) from all Evil and Mischief, from the Crafts and Assaults of the Devil; from the Fear of Death, and from everlasting Death. *Amen.*

III.

Lord impute not unto *him* the Follies of *his* Youth, nor any of the Errors and Mischances of *his* Life; but strengthen *him* in *his* Agony, and carry *him* safely thro' *his* last Distress. Let not *his* Faith waver, nor *his* Hope fail, nor *his* Charity be disorder'd; let *him* die in Peace, and rest in Hope, and rise in Glory. *Amen.*

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Lord, we know and believe assuredly, that whatsoever is under thy Custody cannot be taken out of thy Hands, nor by all the Violences of Hell robbed of thy Protection: Preserve the Work of thy Hands; rescue *him* from all Evil, and let *his* Portion be with the Patriarchs and Prophets, with the Apostles and Martyrs, and all thy holy Saints, in the Arms of Christ, in the Bosom of Felicity, and the Kingdom of God for ever.

O Saviour of the World, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us; save and help this thy departing Servant, we beseech thee, O Lord.
Amen.

UNTO thy gracious Mercy and Protection we commit *him*. O God the Father, bless *him* and keep *him*. O God the Son, make thy Face to shine upon *him*, and be gracious unto *him*. O God the holy Ghost, lift up thy Countenance upon *him*, and give *him* thy Peace, both now and evermore. *Amen.*

A Consolatory Form of Devotion
that may be used with the Friends
or Relations of the Deceased.

Sorrow not, Brethren, for them which are
asleep, even as others who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died, and rose
again, even to them also which sleep in Jesus
will God bring with him, 1 Thes. 4. 13, 14.

It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth
him good, 1 Sam. 3. 18.

The righteous is taken away from the E-
vil to come, Isa. 57. 1.

Tho' the righteous be prevented with
Death, yet shall he be in rest.

For honourable Age is not that which
standeth in length of Time, nor that is mea-
sured by number of Years.

But Wisdom is the gray hair unto Men,
and an unspotted Life is old Age. *

[He pleased God and was beloved of him,
so that living among Sinners he was transla-
ted.

Yea speedily was he taken away, lest that
wickedness should alter his Understanding, or
deceit beguile his Soul, Wisd. 4. 10, 11.]

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 163

** Precious in the sight of the Lord is the Death of his Saints, Psal. 116. 13.*

Yea, blessed are the Dead which die in the Lord, even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their Labours, Rev. 14. 13.

Let us Pray.

Lord have Mercy upon us.

Christ have Mercy upon us.

Lord have Mercy upon us.

OUR Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this Day our daily Bread. And forgive us our Trespases as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from Evil. *Amen.*

Lord, thou hast been our Refuge from one Generation to another.

Before the Mountains were brought forth, or ever the Earth and the World were made, thou art God from Everlasting, and World without end.

Thou turnest Man to Destruction, again thou sayest, Come again ye Children of Men.

For a thousand Years in thy sight are but as Yesterday, seeing that is past as a Watch in the Night.

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As soon as thou scatterest them, they are even a sleep, and fade away suddenly like the Grass.

In the Morning it is green, and groweth up; but in the Evening it is cut down, dried up, and withered.

So we all of us consume away in thy Displeasure, and are afraid at thy wrathful Indignation.

Thou settest our Misdeeds before thee, and our secret Sins are ever in the light of thy Countenance.

And when thou art Angry, all our Days are gone; and we bring our Tears to an end, as it were a Tale that is told.

So teach us, therefore, O Lord, to number our Days, that we may apply our Hearts unto Wisdom.

Turn thee again at last and be gracious to thy Servants.

Comfort them again, now after the time that thou hast visited them, and for the present Occasion, wherein they suffer Adversity.

O satisfie them with thy Mercy, and that soon, so shall they rejoyce and be glad all the Days of their Life.

MOST just art thou, O God, in all thy dealings with us, and our Punishment is less than our Iniquities deserve; and therefore we desire to submit with all Humility and

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 165

and Patience to this sad Dispensation of thy divine Providence. Be pleased so to sanctify it to this Family, that at the Breach thou hast made, thy Grace and Mercy may enter in, and more abundantly flow upon thy Servants. Thy Property it is to bring Good out of Evil: O turn that Evil which is now befallen this House, to the Good and Benefit of every one of us, that so we may be able to say from happy Experience, That *the House of Mourning is better than the House of Feasting*, while the Death of our Brother (thro' thy Blessing) shall conduce and minister to our spiritual Advantage.

Let the Sight of *his* Change make us the more mindful of our own, and the Sense of our Loss make us cleave the more closely to thee, our God. Let the Remembrance of *his* Vertues make us follow *his* Example, and the Hope we have of *his* being blessed, cause us to *press* (with the more Earnestness) *towards the Mark, for the Prize of the high Calling of God, in Christ Jesus.*

Thou knowest, O Lord, the Weakness and Frailty of our Nature, and therefore, we beseech thee to give thy Servants, who are more nearly concern'd in this sad Affair, a constant Supply of thy good Spirit, to enable 'em to bear it with that Humility, Patience, Resignation, and Submission to

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thy divine Will, as becometh the Gospel of Jesus Christ. O that no repining Thoughts may rise in their Hearts to discompose their Duty towards thee, or towards their Neighbour; but help 'em rather to think wherein they have offended thee, and carefully to amend it; to place their Affections more stedfastly on those unmoveable things which are above, and freely to resign all their Thoughts and Desires unto thee; saying, with holy *Job*, *The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the Name of the Lord.* And let the Death of thy Servant strike us all with such a lively Sense of our Mortality, as may cause us so thoroughly to die to Sin, and live to Grace, as that, when we die to Nature, we may be alive to God, through Christ, and rest in him, as our Hope is this our *Brother* doth.

We evidently see before our Eyes, *that Death is the End of all Men*; Grant us therefore Grace, that are living, to lay it to Heart: So lay it to Heart as to despise the World, *to abhor that which is evil, and cleave to that which is good*: to delight in thy Word, to study thy Will, to observe thy Law, to seek thy Favour, and to take the best Course, and all possible Care to promote thy Honour, and our own and others Salvation; that so when *we go the Way of all*
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the Earth, we may have thy Presence go along with us, and give us Rest eternal in Heaven.

And regard, O Christ, the importunate Desires of those thy Servants, who long for thy appearing, and, Night and Day, with restless Supplications, Sighs and Tears, do humbly and heartily pray and sue for it.

Hear them, we entreat thee, and according to thy last most gracious Promise to thy militant Church, *Come Lord Jesus, come quickly*; that so we, together with all thy holy ones, may be glorified in Soul and Body, and enjoy a most perfect and endless Blessedness, by *being with thee where thou art*, to behold thy Glory for ever and ever.

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our Supplications and Prayers, and dispose the Way of thy Servants towards the Attainment of everlasting Salvation; that among all the Changes and Chances of this mortal Life, they may ever be defended by thy most gracious and ready Help, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord lift up the Light of his Countenance upon us, and give us Peace, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

Occasional Prayers and Devotions for the Sick and Calamitous in extraordinary Cases.

¶ *A Prayer for a Person whose Illness is chiefly brought on him by some calamitous Disaster or Loss, as of Estate, Relation, or Friends, &c.*

From Bishop Patrick.

O Most great and glorious Lord God of Heaven and Earth, supreme Judge and Governor of the World, *in whom we live, and move, and have our Being*, and from whom all the Blessings we enjoy, and *every good and perfect Gift cometh*, grant us, we most humbly beseech thee, such a Measure of thy Grace, that when at any time thou art pleased to remove any of thy Blessings from us, we may bear it with a perfect Submission and Resignation to thy Divine Will, and with all Patience, Humility, and Contentedness of Spirit, considering

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 169

ing how unworthy we are of any of the least of thy Mercies.

More particularly, O Lord, we beg of thee at present, to send this Peaceableness and Contentedness of Mind, on this thy Servant, whom thou hast so sensibly touched, and taken so near and dear a Blessing from *him*. O give *him* such a Portion of thy blessed Spirit, and such a lively Sense of *his* Duty, that *he* may have Power to surmount all the Difficulties *he* labours under, and freely to resign all *his* Thoughts and Desires unto thee, submitting *himself* entirely to thy good Providence, and resolving, by thy gracious Assistance, to rest contented with whatsoever thou in thy Wisdom appointest for *him*. Let *him* say, with good old *Eli*, *It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good*; or with holy *Job*, *The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the Name of the Lord*. Thou knowest, O Lord, the Weakness and Frailty of our Nature, and therefore be pleased to comfort *him* in this Bed of Sicknes, and establish *him* with the Light of thy Countenance again, and grant, that no repining Thoughts may add Fuel to the Fire, and increase *his* Illness or Disorder, or discompose *his* Duty towards thee, or *his* Neighbour; but help *him* rather to think where-
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in *he* hath offended thee, and carefully to amend it; to set *his* Affections on Things above, and not on Things below, and to lay up for *himself* Treasures in Heaven, even the Treasures of a good Life, which no Disasters or Calamities shall ever be able to take from *him*. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the alone Merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

¶ *A Prayer for a Person, that by any calamitous Disaster hath broken any of his Bones, or is very much bruised and hurt in his Body.*

From Mr.
Jenks.

O Lord most high, the all-disposing God, thou hast taught us that *Affliction cometh not forth of the Dust; neither doth trouble spring out of the Ground;* that it does not come by chance, without thy Appointment, but is the Messenger dispatch'd on thy Errands, who hast an overruling hand in all the Disasters that befall us, whatever is the immediate Occasion of our Hurts: And thou art just in all thou bringest on us; and tho' thy *Judgments are far above out of our Sight*, yet we know, *that they are right*, and that it is in very *Faithfulness* that thou causest us to be afflicted. And *why then should a living Man complain, a Man for the Punishment of his*
Sins?

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Sins? Let these Considerations prevail with thy Servant to submit to thy Hand, and not contend with thee; make *him* to resolve to bear the Effects of thy Displeasure, and to consider it as the just Desert of *his Sins, if a worse thing had happen'd unto him.* O, our God, give *him* Patience and Strength, and Grace proportionable to this great Trial; and enable *him* so to demean *himself* under it, that after the Affliction is over, *he* may find Cause to say, *It was good for him to be afflicted.* Thou that hast torn and smitten, thou art able to heal and bind up his Sores; O, be pleas'd to remember *him* in this *his* low Estate, out of that Mercy of thine, which endures for ever. Help *him* to find out what has provoked thee so to stretch out thine Hand against *him.* O that *he* may search and try his Ways, and turn to thee, and bring forth Fruits meet for Repentance; and for his sake who was wounded for our Transgressions, and bruised for our Iniquities, forgive and heal *his* Soul that hath sinned against thee; and in thy good Time repair the Breaches made in *his* Body also, that *he* may perfectly recover of this sad Calamity, [* and his disjointed Bones be set together again, or those

* This Clause to be omitted when no Bones are out of Joint, or broken.

that

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that are broken may rejoice, by being made
whole.]

We know, O Lord, if thou wilt thou canst heal these Bones (*or this Body*) which thou hast vexed. O may it be thy gracious Pleasure, to work so wonderfully for thy Servant, and glorify thy Power and Mercy in *his* Help and Recovery; or however thou shalt think fit to dispose of this *vile Body*, grant *him*, O God, a Mind entirely resign'd to thy Will, and satisfied with thy Dealings; and make this sad Dispensation, which is so grievous for the Time, gracious in the Issue. O make it the Messenger of thy Love to *his* Soul, and the happy Means of converting and sanctifying it, and so prepare it for thee, that it may be fit to receive all thy saving Mercies, in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for a Person that lies under an Arrest of Death, by any (such like) sad Accident.*

From Bishop Taylor.

O Most gracious Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, Judge of the living and the dead; behold thy Servants running to thee for Pity and Mercy, in behalf of our selves, and this thy Servant, whom thou hast suddenly smitten with thy Rod. If it be thy Will, preserve
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his Life, that there may be place for *his* Repentance and Restitution: O spare *him* a little, that *he* may recover *his* Strength before *he* go hence, and be no more seen. But if thou hast otherwise decreed, let the Miracles of thy Compassion, and thy wonderful Mercy, supply to *him* the want of the usual Measures of Time, and the Periods of Repentance, and the Trimming of *his* Lamp: And let the Greatness of the Calamity move thee to pardon those Defects and Degrees of Unreadiness, which may have caused this Accident upon thy Servant. Lord, stir up in *him* a great and effectual Contrition, that the Greatness of *his* Sorrow and Hatred against Sin, and the Zeal of *his* Love to thee, may in a short Time do the Work of many Days. And thou who regardest the Heart, and the Measures of the Mind, more than those of Time, be pleased to rescue the Soul of thy Servant, from all the Evils *he* hath deserved, and all the Evils *he* fears; that in the Songs of Eternity it may be reckon'd among thy Glories, that thou hast redeem'd this Soul from the Danger of eternal Death, and made *him* Partaker of the Gift of God, eternal Life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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¶ *A Prayer for a Person that is afflicted with grievous Pains of his Body.*

From Mr.
Jenks.

O Lord, thou art a merciful God, and dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the Children of Men; but when the Necessity of our Case calls for sharp Applications, thou chastisest us for our Profit, that we may be Partakers of thy Holiness. Blessed is the Man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy Law. O that it may be in such Mercy to the Soul of thy Servant, whom thy Hand is so hard upon at present! Now that thou hast cast *him* into thy Furnace, O that it may be a means to purge out *his* Dross, and so fit *him* for thy Use and Service! O that *he* may learn such things in this School of Affliction, as may stand *him* in stead, and do *him* good for ever after.

But thou, O Father of Mercies, and God of all Comfort, who knowest our Frame, and how little it is that we can endure, though it be so much that we deserve, yet be pleased in the midst of Judgment to remember Mercy, and do thou either make *his* Sufferings less, or thy Grace in *him*, and *his* Patience and spiritual Strength greater than all *his* Sufferings. O take the Load

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Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 175

off from *him*, or lighten it to *him*, or enable *him* to bear what thou art pleased to lay upon *him*. Lord, all *his* Desire is before thee, and his Groaning is not hid from thee; O regard *his* Affliction, when thou hearest *his* Cry: Enter not into Judgment with *him*, nor deal with *him* after *his* Sins, but according to thy Mercy remember thou *him*, for thy Goodness sake in Jesus Christ. O gracious Father, sanctify to *him* what thou hast laid upon *him*, that the present Affliction may have a comfortable Issue, and work for *him* a more exceeding and eternal Weight of Glory. O do thou support and bear *him* up under it, till it shall please thee to lessen *his* Pains, and grant *him* Ease, to the Joy and Comfort of thy Servant, and to the Glory of thy Name: And however thou shalt deal with *him*, let *him* not repine at thy Correction, nor sin in charging thee foolishly. Make *him* sensible, that thou dost nothing but what is most just and fit to be done; yea, nothing but what thy Servant shall one Day have Cause to bless and praise thee for doing; and let this Consideration teach and help *him* to glorify thee in the Time of *his* Visitation, by *his* humble Submission to thy Will, *his* patient abiding of thy Hand, and *his* faithful Reformation under it; that thou
mayest

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mayest return with the Visitations of thy Love, and restore Ease and Comforts to *him*, and shew *him* the Joy of thy Salvation, for thine own Mercies sake, in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for one who is troubled with acute Pains of the Gout, Stone, Cholick, or any other bodily Distempers.*

From Mr.
Spinckes.

O Blessed God, just and holy, who dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the Children of Men; withhold not, we pray thee, thy Assistance from this thy Servant in this *his* sharp and painful Condition. *Thine Arrows stick fast in him*, and thy Hand presseth *him* sore. Thou makest *him* to possess [Months or] Days of Vanity, and wearisome Nights are appointed to *him*. When *he* lieth down *he* is tempted to say, When shall I arise, and the Night be gone? and *he* is full of Tossings to and fro, unto the Dawning of the Day. *He* is feeble and sore smitten; *he* roareth for the very Anguish of *his* Pain. His Sorrows are enlarged, *his* Pain is great and *his* Soul is full of Trouble. And *he* has none to seek to for the Ease and Mitigation of *his* Agonies, but to thee, O Lord! *He* freely owns *his* Sufferings to be far less than *he* has deserved, and that it is purely
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of thy Goodness that they have not been far worse than they are. But yet since they pierce deep, and are become almost too hard for *him* to bear, we presume to call upon thee, O Lord, for Aid, and to intreat thee not to punish *him* according to *his* Deserts: For *if thou, Lord, shouldest be extreme to mark what is done amiss; O Lord, who may abide it?* Spare *him* therefore for thy Mercies sake; and correct him, O Lord, but with Judgment, not in thine Anger, lest thou bring *him* to nothing. Endue *him* with that Patience which may enable *him* chearfully to submit to thy Chastisement, and grant *him* that hearty Repentance for all *his* Sins, which may invite thee to put an End to this *his* sore Correction. Suffer *him* not to be tried beyond *his* Strength; lay no more on *him* than thou wilt enable *him* to bear: Comfort thou his Soul, which melts away for very Heaviness, and let thy loving Mercy come unto *him*, O Lord, according to thy Word. Hear our Prayer according unto thy loving Kindness, and quicken thy Servant as thou art wont. Sanctify thy Rod to *him*, that it may be for thy Glory, and *his* Advantage: And when thy gracious Ends in afflicting *him* shall be once accomplished, which we know are not for *thy* Pleasure, but for *his* Profit, re-

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move, we beseech thee, thy Hand from *him*, and give *him* a fresh Occasion to rejoice in thy saving Health, through Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for a Person in the Small-pox, or any such like raging infectious Disease.*

O Lord God, the Giver of Health, which sweetens all other Blessings of Life; without which, in the Midst of the greatest Affluence of all worldly Prosperity, we are wretched and miserable; look down, we beseech thee, with an Eye of Compassion, upon thy poor disconsolate Servant, from whom thou hast taken this great and valuable Blessing of Life, and instead thereof, brought *him* into so great Trouble and Misery, that *he* mourns all the Day long, and all the Night *he* washes *his* Bed, and waters *his* Couch with *his* Tears.

For *his* Loyns are filled with a fore Disease, and there is no whole Part in *his* Body; but from the Sole of the Foot even to the Crown, there is nothing but Wounds, and Boils, and putrefying Sores, which stink, and are corrupt thro' *his* Foolishness.

Teach *him*, O Lord, and teach us all from hence, to consider how soon the Beauty of Life

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Life is blasted, like a Flower of the Field, and our *Strength dried up like a Potsherd*, when thou hidest thy self from us, that we may not put our Trust in any of these transitory Things, but in thee only, the living God, who art able to save and to destroy, to kill, and to make alive.

Our *Brother*, whom now we behold so lamentable a Spectacle, was lately like one of us, in perfect Health and Soundness of Body; but now thou *chastenest him for Sin*, thou makest his *Beauty to consume away*, like as it were a Moth fretting a Garment. Thou breakest him with a Tempest, and his Roarings are poured like Water. Thine Arrows stick fast in him, and thy Hand presseth him sore; so that there is no Soundness in his Flesh, because of thine Anger, neither is there any Rest in his Bones, by reason of his Sin.

O reject him not utterly, but take thy Plague away from him, for he is even consumed by the Means of thy heavy Hand. Return, O Lord, and that speedily; for his Spirit faileth. O leave him not to himself, for tho' he is become a Monster unto many, yet his sure Trust is in thee. To thee, O Lord, does he cry; unto thee doth he stretch forth his Hands; his Soul thirsteth after thee as a thirsty Land. Lord! all his Desire is before thee, and his Groaning is not hid from thee.

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Comfort him therefore again, now after the Time that thou hast plagued him, and for the Days wherein he hath suffered Adversity.

And put a Stop, O Lord, we beseech thee, to this raging Infection, and say to the destroying Angel, *It is enough.* Let it not spread abroad to sweep our Streets with the besom of Destruction, nor to lay us in the Grave like Sheep, with the Men that have been long dead. But cover us under the shadow of thy Wings, that we may not be afraid for any Terror by Night; nor for the Arrow that flieth by Day; nor for the Pestilence that walketh in Darkness; nor for the Sickness that destroyeth in the Noon-day: But that with ease in our Minds, and Health in our Bodies, we may serve thee chearfully all the Days of our Life, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for a Person in a Consumption, or any lingering Disease.*

From Mr.
Jenks

O good God, thou hast long kept thy Servant under thy chastening Hand: Thou hast made him acquainted with Grief, and his Sickness is even become his old familiar Companion. Yet, O blessed Lord, grant that he may not think it long to wait thy leisure, who art pleased

Occasional Prayers for the Sick. 181

pleased to wait so long for the Return of a Sinner, and who art very pitiful and of tender Mercy, having kind Intentions, even in thy bitter Dispensations: Yea, *Chastenest whom thou lovest, and scourgest every Son whom thou receivest*. Teach him, O gracious Father, to see Love in thy Rod, as well as Justice in all thy Dealings; that *he* may humble *himself* under thy mighty Hand, and also think it good for *him* to be afflicted, and patiently wait for the Lord, in Hopes of Good out of this Evil, and at last an happy Conclusion of the long Visitation. Blessed be thy Name, O Father of Mercies, that thou dost not pour out all thy Wrath; but in Judgment thinkest upon Mercy, to make the Affliction supportable, giving some Ease and Relaxation from torturing Pains, and mingling many good Ingredients with this bitter Potion. O make *him* so sensible of thy Kindness, that *he* may be not only contented, but thankful under thy Hand.

Yet that *his* Faith may not fail, nor *his* Patience be wearied out, return, O Lord, at the last, and give thy Servant a Discharge from this Warfare, and say to the Affliction, *It is enough*. Make *him* glad according to the Time wherein thou hast *afflicted him*, and wherein *he* hath suffered so much Ad-

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verty. And till thou shalt please to remember *him* in such Mercy, O grant that *he* may neither despise thy Chastening, nor faint under thy Rebukes; but take all as *he* ought, and employ the Time which thou lendest, and improve the Affliction which thou continuest, as a gracious Opportunity for *his* Soul's Advantage: That under the Decays of the outer Man, the inner may be renewed Day by Day; and all that is wanting in *his* spiritual Concerns, may be filled up; and whatever pertains to *his* everlasting Salvation be promoted and perfected, thro' the Riches of thy Grace, and the Multitude of thy Mercies in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for a Person that is Lame in his Sickness.*

*From Mr.
Lewis.*

O Almighty God, who art Eyes to the blind, and Feet to the lame, who makest sore, and bindest up: Have pity, we intreat thee, on thy Servant, who is likewise lame in his Sickness. Help him in this *his* Distress, and blest, we pray thee, the Means made use of for his Cure, that *he* may again walk and not faint. Make him sensible of thy Design in visiting him with

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with this Affliction; cause *him* to remember, how in his Strength and Vigor, *he* has walked after *his* own Counsels, and the Desires of *his* own Heart: And let *him* see that thou hast lift up thy Hand against *him*, for this very purpose, that *he* may learn to walk more humbly with thee, and turn *his* Feet to thy Testimonies. O be gracious unto thy Servant, and heal *him* of what is such an Hindrance to *him*, as to keep *him* from [* getting his daily Bread or] enjoying the Comforts of Life, and frequenting thy holy

* To be omitted where the Person prayed for is able to live without Labour.

Temple. Deliver *him* from the painful and uneasy Confinement *he* is under, and grant *him* again the Liberty of going to thy House, and worshipping thee in thy Sanctuary, with the Voice of Joy and Praise. But, O Lord, not our Will, but thine be done. Thou knowest better what is good for us, than we our selves, and 'tis in Wisdom that thou afflictest us. Help therefore thy Servant to cast his Burden on thee, who wilt never suffer *him* to be moved. Give *him* Patience that *he* may bear *his* Pains without Murmuring, and wait the Time of *his* Deliverance from them, without Uneasiness; satisfy *him* of thy Care over *him*, and thy tender Regard to *him*; and in thy good

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Time restore *him* to the perfect Use of *his* Limbs again, that we thy Servants together with *him* may give Thanks in the great Congregation for thy Kindness to *him*, in making the lame Walk, for Jesus Christ his sake. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for one that is Bed-rid.*

*From Mr.
Lewis.*

O Lord our God, who art the Father of Mercies, and the God of all Comfort, our Strength in Time of Trouble, and who hast Mercy on thine afflicted! Have Pity, we entreat thee, on this melancholy and forlorn Condition of thy Servant. Thou hast long since confined *him* a Prisoner to *his* Bed, and seemest to have passed Sentence on *him*, that *he* shall never come down from this Bed on which *he* is gone up. O do thou be pleased to sweeten this Confinement to *him*! Support *his* Spirits, which are apt to droop under it; refresh *his* Mind, which is apt to be uneasie and melancholy at the Thought of it. Do thou make *his* Bed for *him*, that it may be easie and comfortable to *him*. Cause *him* to remember thee, and meditate on thee, in the Night-watches. Give Sleep to *his* Eyes, and Slumber to *his* Eye-lids, that so *his* Bed may comfort *him* under *his* Confinement to it, and ease *his* Complaint
of

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of being always in it: Make *him* to commune with his own Heart: Let *him* make this Advantage of *his* Solitude, to search and try *his* Ways; calmly to debate within *himself* the Manner of *his* acting, that so *he* may see in what *he* hath done amiss, and may turn unto the Lord with all *his* Heart and Soul. Let this Affliction be a Means to prepare *him* for the Enjoyment of thy Presence, in which is Fulness of Joy; and let *him* be the more patient under it for that Reason. Make *him* thankful that thou hast by this Means kept *him* from the Company of those whose evil Communication might have corrupted *him*; and hast taken *him* out of a World, by whose Snares and Temptations *he* might have been prevail'd with to forsake thee, and turn from the way of thy Commandments; that thou hast taken this Way to secure *him* to thy self, and make *him* a Partaker of thy Joy. And, O grant that *he* may not by Murmuring and Repining hinder this thy Desire, being fulfilled in *him*, but that *he* may make such Use of the Leisure and Opportunity *he* hath now given *him*, as to make *his* Peace with thee, and be fitted for the Enjoyment of thine Inheritance with the Saints in Light, for Jesus Christ his sake. *Amen.*

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¶ *A Prayer for a Person troubled in Mind,
or in Conscience.*

*Visitation-
Office.*

O Blessed Lord, the Father of Mercies, and the God of all Comforts, we beseech thee look down in Pity and Compassion upon this thy afflicted Servant. Thou writest bitter Things against *him*, and makest *him* to possess *his* former Iniquities; thy Wrath lieth hard upon *him*, and *his* Soul is full of Trouble. But, O merciful God, who hast written thy holy Word for our Learning, that we thro' Patience and Comfort of thy holy Scriptures might have Hope; give *him* a right Understanding of *himself*, and of thy Threats and Promises, that *he* may neither cast away *his* Confidence in thee, nor place it any where but in thee. Give *him* Strength against all *his* Temptations, and heal all *his* Distempers. Break not the bruised Reed, nor quench the smoaking Flax. Shut not up thy tender Mercies in Displeasure; but make *him* to hear of Joy and Gladness, that the Bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Deliver *him* from the Fear of the Enemy, and lift up the Light of thy Countenance upon *him*, and give *him* Peace, thro' the

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the Merits and Meditation of Jesus Christ
our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Another for the same, or for one under deep
Melancholy and Dejection of Spirit.*

From Mr.
Jenks

O Most good and gracious Lord,
thou knowest our Frame,
and art a God full of Compassion to pity and
relieve thy Servants, under their Trouble
and Oppression. Look down, we humbly
pray thee, with thy wonted Pity, and re-
member in tender Mercy the Work of thy
Hands, our disconsolate Friend, this trou-
bled Soul, that is even distracted in suffer-
ing thy Terrors: Thy Wrath lies hard up-
on *him*, and all thy Waves are gone over
him; they disturb *his* Peace, oppress *his*
Mind, and make him unfit rightly to use
his Reason, or discharge *his* Duty. O
thou that spakest the Winds and Waves in-
to Obedience and Calmness, settle and quiet
his discomposed Thoughts; speak Peace
and Satisfaction to *his* troubled Mind, and
give *him* Comfort and sure Confidence in
the Sense of thy Pardon and Love. Lord,
help *his* Unbelief, and increase *his* Faith.
Tho' *he* now walks in the Valley and Sha-
dow of Death, let *thy Rod and thy Staff*
comfort him. Let *him* trust in the Name
of the Lord, and stay upon *his* God. In
the

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the Multitude of the Thoughts and Sorrows that *he* hath in *his* Heart, O let thy Comfort come in to refresh *his* Soul. Be thou pleased, Lord, to deliver and ease *him* of the Load that lies upon *his* Spirit: And let in a Beam of thy heavenly Light to scatter and dispel all the Clouds and Darkness, in which *his* Mind is wrapt up. O direct to the Means most proper for *his* Help, and bless and prosper them so, that they may be effectual to promote *his* Recovery out of this sad and doleful Estate. Incline *his* Ears to wholesome Counsels, and fashion *his* Heart to receive due Impressions: O gracious Father, pity *his* Frailty, and forgive *his* Sin: Heal *him*, O Lord, both in Soul and Body, and rebuke *his* Distemper so, that *his* disquieted Soul may return to its Rest. O raise *him* up, and make *him* whole; yea, make hast, O Lord, to shew such Mercy upon *him*, even for thine own Mercies Sake, in Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

From Bp.
Patrick.

DEfend *him*, O most gracious Father, from dishonouring thee and *his* Religion, by distrusting thy Goodness, and calling thy Loving-Kindness in question towards those that are sincerely bent to please thee.

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Remove all troublesome Imaginations from *him*, and give *him* a clear Understanding of thee and of *himself*, that no causeless Fears and Jealousies may overwhelm *him*, nor *his* Heart sink within *him*, from any unprofitable Sadness and Dejections of Spirit. Compose therefore, we beseech thee, *his* broken and disturbed Thoughts, quiet *his* troubled and disorder'd Mind, and appease all the Ragings and Tumults of *his* Soul, by a sweet Sense of thy tender Mercies, and of the Love of thy Son Jesus Christ to Mankind. Keep *him* from making any rash Judgments and Conclusions of *himself*, and much more from charging thee foolishly; and give him so much Light and Judgment amidst all the Darkness and Confusion of *his* Thoughts, that he may not think *himself* forsaken by thee, but rather that *he* may firmly believe, that if *he* does the best *he* can, thou requirest no more of *him*. And, good Lord, enable *him* to look beyond these Clouds, to that blessed Place whither *his* Saviour is gone before, in which there is no Darkness at all; and (in an humble Hope of coming to the same Place where he is) to content *himself* with any Condition whilst *he* is here, so far remote from that Region of Light and Glory.

Hear

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Hear us, most merciful and loving Father, and hide not thy self from our Prayers. Strengthen the weak and feeble Endeavours of this thy Servant; support *his* fainting Spirit, and cause it humbly to hope in thee for ever. Confirm and establish every good Thought, Desire, and Purpose, which thou hast wrought in *him*; perfect that which thou hast begun; make *him* to grow in Wisdom, Faith, Love, and willing Obedience: Conduct *him* hereafter so easily and steadily, so peaceably and quietly, so chearfully and securely in thy Ways, that *he* may glorify thee whilst *he* lives, and when *he* comes to be remov'd from this troublesome World, may resign *his* Soul into thy merciful Hands, with a pious Confidence and holy Hope of a joyful Resurrection to come, thro' the Merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

¶ *A Prayer for one under Fears and Doubts, as to the Goodness of his spiritual Condition, or that is under perplexing Thoughts and Scruples about his Duty.*

From Mr.
Kettlewell.

○ Lord our God, we come unto thee in behalf of this thy Servant, whose Soul is cast down and disquieted within *him*, by reason of the Fear
he

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he has of not being in thy Favour, and not accepted by thee. *He* questions whether *he* has not all along presumed on the Goodness and Safety of *his* Condition, without having any Reason for it. And for this the Sorrows of *his* Heart are enlarged, and *he* is brought very low. To thee therefore we cry on *his* Account, that thou wouldest be pleased to hear *him* speedily, and bring *his* Soul out of Prison. Remove from *him*, we entreat thee, all frightful Apprehensions, all perplexing Doubts and Scruples about *his* Duty, which will either hinder *him* from doing it at all, or make *him* do it heavily and with a troubled Mind. Let *him* not indulge *his* Fears as a Sign of Tenderness of Spirit, and the Fruits of thy Grace, but rather let *him* labour against 'em, as *his* spiritual Disease, or as Satan's Temptations.

O make *him* satisfy'd and settled in a right Understanding of all good Things, and careful in the Observance of them, and do thou expel by the Light of thy Countenance all these Mists of Darkness which cloud and obscure *his* Soul, that *he* may not unnecessarily be dejected and distrustful of *himself*, or dishonourably jealous of thee. Deliver *him* from all *his* Offences that may provoke thee to hide thy Face from *him*, and make *him* so much a Stranger to Peace and Comfort,

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fort, and cause *him* to be delighted with doing thy Will, and to place *his* chief Satisfaction in acting so as is most agreeable to thee, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord.

¶ *A Prayer for one who is hurried with wicked and blasphemous Thoughts.*

From Mr.
Lewis.

O Lord God, who art the Father of our Spirits, and to whom all Thoughts are open, and all Desires known; we humbly entreat thy fatherly Goodness to succour and relieve this thy Servant, who labours under the Burden of wicked Thoughts, and blasphemous Suggestions. Thou knowest, O Lord, how painful and uneasy such Thoughts are to *him*, how contrary to the Sense *he* has of thy Excellencies and Perfections, and how earnestly *he* desires to be freed from them. Thou seest how much *his* Soul is cast down, and how disquieted *his* Spirit is within *him*. That at these hellish Suggestions *his* Heart trembleth, and is moved as it were out of its Place. And tho' the Troubles of *his* Heart are thus enlarged, *he* finds no Way to be brought out of *his* Distress. To thee therefore we humbly presume to apply our selves, and to entreat that thou wilt look upon *his* Affliction and *his* Pain, and
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forgive *him* all *his* Sin. We know, O Lord, that nothing is impossible with thee, that thou stoppest the Raging of the Seas, and canst as easily rectify the tumultuous Thoughts of a disordered Mind. O let thy Power and Greatness be shewn in healing the Mind of this thy Servant. Cleanse the Thoughts of *his* Heart by the Inspiration of thy holy Spirit. Suffer them not to be defiled by any wicked, prophane, or blasphemous Suggestions mixing with them. But heal the Soul of thy Servant, by enabling *him* to stifle and suppress all such Thoughts as tend to vex and torment it, to rob it of its Peace, and deprive it of its Innocence. To this end, enable thy Servant to keep all *his* Passions within due bounds, to be of an equal and steady Temper, to be mild and gentle in *his* Behaviour, and neither to set *his* Hopes nor *his* Fears too high. Make him to abide in the Calling wherein *he* is called, and not forsake the Station wherein thy Providence has placed *him*, but to do *his* Duty in that State of Life to which thou hast called *him*. Let *him* not think the worse of thee, or accuse thy Providence of want of Care of *him*; since if thou pleasedst thou mightest have permitted such Thoughts to have continued perpetually without any Intermission,

O

or

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or at least to have visited *him* much oftner, and in a more frightful manner, without the least Diminution of thy Justice. Make *him* sensible, therefore, of the wise and kind Reasons of these Afflictions; that if they are duly improved, they may be powerful Preservatives of *his* Soul against the prevailing Sins of a loose Age; may lessen *his* Inclinations to the Enjoyments of this Life, and deaden *his* Appetite to sensual Pleasure and the perishing Goods of this World; that by these Afflictions *he* may be disposed to compassionate the Sufferings of others, and less to envy their Height and Prosperity; that they tend to make *him* more to feel *his* own Infirmities, and to perceive the Want of divine Assistance, and to carry *his* Thoughts to Heaven: All which Advantages shew that it is in Faithfulness that thou afflictest Mankind; and that altho' for the present all Affliction is grievous, yet it is our own Fault if it does not work out for us a more exceeding and eternal weight of Glory. But in vain, O God! are all these Considerations, unless thou pleasest to set them home on our Minds. To thee therefore we address our selves, that thou wouldst open the Eyes of this thy Servant, that *he* may see and know the wise and gracious Dispensations of thy Providence, and by
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humbling *himself* under them, may be at last lifted up and made a Partaker of that Peace and Joy which thou bestowest on all thy faithful Servants. Grant this for Jesus Christ his Sake our only Mediator and Advocate.

¶ *A Prayer for one who is afflicted with a prophane Mistrust of divine Truths, and blasphemous Thoughts.*

From Mr.
Kettlewell.

O Most gracious God, who by the Power of thy Spirit, art only able to cure our Sicknefs, and overcome the Unruliness of our Minds; protect this thy Servant, we humbly and earnestly entreat thee, against all prophane Doubts and Mistrusts of thy Truths, and against all blasphemous Thoughts and Suggestions about divine Things, which either *his* own melancholy and disorder'd Fancy, or the busie and wicked Adversary, are ready to represent and suggest to *him*.

Never suffer them, O God, to stagger and weaken *his* Faith, nor to hinder or clog *his* Practice; nor, if thou pleasest, by their wearisome Conflicts, to be a Pain and Burden to *his* Life. Preserve *him*, not only from the Sin, but if it may seem good to thy fatherly Wisdom, from the Temptation too, and from the Trouble and sorrow of them.

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But if it be thy blessed Will to continue these prophane and terrifying Thoughts for his Trial and Humiliation; Lord, make *him* sensible, and comfort *his* disturbed Heart with the Sense thereof, that it will not be imputed as a Sin to *him*, to be tempted therewith, but to yield to the Temptation; Convince *him* that in thy Sight *he* is not guilty of the same, whilst *he* neither believes nor gives Place to them; not altering or abating either *his* Faith or *his* Practice thereupon. Let *him* know, that these distrustful and blasphemous Thoughts are the Enemies Sin, who to try and tempt *him*, studiously and wickedly suggests them not *his*, who instead of hearkning thereto, and complying therewith, immediately resists them as soon as he perceives them, and casts them out with Horror and Indignation.

Oh that during this Trial *he* may learn to depend intirely upon thee, without whom *he* can do nothing, that as often as these prophane Thoughts are thrown into *his* Mind, *he* may find Grace to overcome them, and without the least Allowance or Delay, to throw them out again, and that he may lean to bear with himself, and to shew Patience under them, as under ev'ry other Affliction and Trial of thy ordering,

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trusting to thy Grace to assist *him*, and to thy Mercy to accept *him*, whilst *he* is humbly labouring under the same; and to thy Goodness, to rid *him* of them in thy due Time, for our dear Lord and only Saviour Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for one under the Dread of God's Wrath, and everlasting Damnation.*

O Almighty God, the Aid of all that need, and the Helper of them that flee to thee for Succour; accept, we beseech thee, the Prayers that we now put up for this thy Servant, labouring under the dismal Apprehensions of thy Wrath. O, who may stand in thy Sight when once thou art angry! *his* Flesh trembles for Fear of thee, and *he* is afraid of thy Judgments. *He* is not able to bear up under the Thoughts of thy Displeasure, that thy Mercy is clean gone, and that thou wilt shew *him* Favour no more.

From Mr. Lewis.

But do not thou, O God, enter into Judgment with *him*; make *him* sensible that tho' the Wages of Sin be Death, yet the Gift of God is eternal Life: That thou hatest the Death of a Sinner, and art not willing that any should perish: That thou always punishest less than we deserve, and

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in the midst of Judgment remembreſt Mercy; Oh do thou ſet this home on *his* Mind, that ſo *he* may be brought off from *his* Diſtruſt of thy Mercy, and thinking *his* Sins are unpardonable by thee. For his Sake who ſuffer'd on the Croſs, and made there a full, perfect and ſufficient Sacrifice, Oblation and Satisfaction for the Sins of the whole World, deliver *him* from thy Wrath, and from everlaſting Damnation. Hide not thy Face from *him*, but revive *his* Soul with a Senſe of thy Love, and the Hopes of thy Pardon, and obtaining the Joy of thy Salvation; that ſo he may be raiſed again from this Dejection he is now afflicted with, and may ſhew with Gladneſs what thou haſt done for *his* Soul; all which we humbly beg for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for a Lunatick.*

*From Mr.
Jenks.*

O Lord, the only wiſe God, thou giveſt Underſtanding, and takeſt it away as thou pleaſeſt; and thou art holy and righteous in all that ever thou doſt, though the Reaſon and Meaning of many of thy Works is unknown to us, yet ſtill thou knoweſt well what thou haſt to do; And we muſt be dumb, and not open
our

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our Mouths, when it's thy doing. The Strokes which thou hast laid on thy poor Creature would be just upon any of us; and we must acknowledge it owing wholly to thy Mercy that it is any better with us: But in tender Compassion of his pitiable Condition, we take upon us to beg thy merciful Relief in his behalf; for thou, Lord, that givest Sense and Discretion, canst as easily renew them when impair'd; and thou that madest thy Servant out of nothing, canst also bring him to use his Reason right as he ought.

O dispel the Clouds in which now *his* Soul is wrapt up, that he may come to a good Understanding of *himself*, and a right Mind. Reduce and heal *his* craz'd and disorder'd Understanding, settle and quiet *his* Passions, pacify and compose *his* Fancy and Imagination. Have Pity, we beseech thee, O Lord, upon *him*, and impute not unto *him* any Thing that is now said or done amidst by *him*: But in Mercy pass it by, as if it had not been said or done at all.

O that thou wouldest direct to some Means for Help in this Case! and make *him* tractable to the Use of Remedies, and willing and ready to comply with the Advice of *his* Friends, till *he* shall be in a better Capacity to manage and help *himself*.

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And where no Means will reach to work the Cure; thou that canst open the Doors which are barr'd against us, and art never at such a Loss but thou knowest how to deliver: O reveal thy glorious Arm to bring Salvation from above, and command that Deliverance which is out of our Prospect to see effected. That thy Name may have all the Glory of such thy great and wonderful Mercy in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for natural Fools or Madmen.*

*From Mr.
Kettlewell.*

O Almighty and most merciful Father, pity, we entreat thee, this thy poor Creature, who knows not *his* own Wants, nor how to ask for thy Mercies: But as *he* is not capable of doing Things to please thee, so let nothing which *he* doth offend thee. *He* is still as an Infant, O God, not arrived to the Use of Reason: Oh deal with *him* as thou dost with them, and as such admit *him* into the Kingdom of Heaven.

** Omit this Clause
in the Case of Madmen
who have been mad
since they came to the
Use of Reason.*

[* He has been received for thy Child in Baptism, and has done nothing since to forfeit the Claims of Mercy and Bliss made over to him therein, and belonging to that Relation;] O let them be fulfilled and made good to *him* in their Time. And

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And as *his* Want of Understanding unfits *him* to do any Thing for thee, so doth it likewise to do any Thing for *himself*; and therefore *he* needs to have the more done for *him* by thee, and by the good Instruments of thy Providence. Oh let thy Care, good Lord, supply the Wants of *his* own. Give thy holy Angels Charge to *him* as they do to helpless Children. Give thy Saints, and those who are any way concern'd with him, the Inclination to be Understanding, and Eyes, and Feet, and Hands, to *him*, as to one who is as if *he* had none of these of *his* own, but wants to have them supplied out of thy Provision; and do thou in thy Wisdom prevent those Evils which *he* can't foresee, and put those by which *he* wants Understanding to remove; especially, O Lord, keep *him* from doing any Thing that is mischievous, either to others, or to *himself*.

Oh, thou who art found of them that seek thee not, shew Mercy to this thy Servant, who extremely needs thee, tho' *he* can't seek unto thee; thou, O Lord, knowest *his* Wants, though *he* is insensible and ignorant of them: And tho' *he* cannot speak for *himself*, yet *his* Wants speak, and cry aloud for *him*. Oh hear their Cry, which calls to thee for Pity. Hear us for *him* who is
not

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not able to ask for *himself*, and grant *him* thy special Care at present, and thy Peace at the last, thro' the Merits and Mediation of thy dear Son our only Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

¶ *Proper Psalms for a sick Person at Sea.*

I.

1. **S**AVE me, O God, for the Waters are come in even unto my Soul, *Psal.* 69. 1.

2. I am come into deep Waters, so that the Floods run over me, *Psal.* 69. 2.

3. The Floods are risen, O Lord, the Floods have lift up their Voice: the Floods lift up their Waves, *Psal.* 93. 4.

4. The Waves of the Sea are mighty, and rage horribly, but yet the Lord who dwelleth in Heaven is mightier, *Psal.* 93. 5.

5. He maketh the Storm to cease, so that the Waves thereof are still, *Psal.* 107. 29.

6. Wherefore, unto thee, O Lord, do I cry in my Trouble: Deliver me out of my Distress, *Psal.* 107. 28.

7. Thou shalt shew us wonderful Things in thy Righteousness, O God of our Salvation: Thou that art the Hope of all the
Ends

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Ends of the Earth, and of them that remain in the broad Sea, *Psal.* 65. 5.

8. I will cry unto thee, Thou art my Father, my God, and the Rock of my Salvation, *Psal.* 89. 26.

8. Withdraw not thou thy Mercy from me, O Lord, let thy loving Kindness and Truth always preserve me, *Psal.* 40. 14.

10. For innumerable Troubles are come about me, my Sins have taken such hold upon me, that I am not able to look up; yea, they are more in Number than the Hair of my Head, and my Heart hath failed me, *Psal.* 40. 15.

11. O Lord, let it be thy Pleasure to deliver me: Make haste, O Lord, to help me, *Psal.* 40. 16.

II.

OUT of the Deep have I called unto thee, O Lord; Lord hear my Voice, *Psal.* 130. 1.

2. O Let thine Ears consider well the Voice of my Complaint, *Psal.* 130. 2.

3. For I am helpless and poor, and my Heart is wounded within me, *Pf.* 109. 21.

4. My Heart is disquieted within me, and the Fear of Death is fallen upon me, *Psal.* 55. 4.

5. Fear-

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5. Fearfulness and Trembling are come upon me, and an horrible Dread hath overwhelmed me, *Psal.* 55. 5.

6. I go hence like the Shadow that departeth, and am driven away like a Grasshopper, *Psal.* 109. 22.

7. O God, thou knowest my Foolishness, and my Sins are not hid from thee, *Psal.* 69. 5.

8. Thou hast laid me in the lowest Pit; in a Place of Darknes, and in the Deep, *Psal.* 88. 5.

9. Thine Indignation lieth hard upon me, and thou hast vexed me with all thy Storms, *Psal.* 88. 6.

10. Thou breakest me with a Tempest, and my Roarings are poured out like Waters, *Job* 3. 24.

11. O reject me not utterly, and be not exceeding wroth against thy Servant, *Lament.* 5.

12. For my Soul is full of Trouble, and my Life draweth nigh unto Hell, *Psal.* 88. 2.

13. I am brought into so great Trouble and Misery, that I go mourning all the Day long, *Psal.* 38. 6.

14. For my Loins are filled with a sore Disease, and there is no whole Part in my Body, *Psal.* 38. 7.

15. My

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15. My Wounds stink and are corrupt, thro' my Foolishness, *Psal.* 38. 5.

16. Behold, O Lord, I am in Distress, my Bowels are troubled, my Heart is turned within me, for I have grievously rebelled, *Lament.* 1. 20.

17. Oh remember not the Sins and Offences of my Youth, but according to thy Mercy think thou upon me, O Lord, for thy Goodness, *Psal.* 25. 7.

18. Take thy Plague away from me: I am even consumed by the Means of thy heavy Hand, *Psal.* 39. 11.

19. When thou with Rebukes dost chasten Man for Sin, thou makest his Beauty to consume away, like as it were a Moth fretting a Garment: Every Man therefore is but Vanity, *Psal.* 39. 12.

20. Hear my Prayer, O Lord, and with thine Ears consider my Calling: Hold not thy Peace at my Tears, *Psal.* 39. 13.

21. For I am a Stranger with thee, and a Sojourner, as all my Fathers were, *Psal.* 39. 14.

22. O spare me a little, that I may recover my Strength before I go hence and be no more seen, *Psal.* 39. 15.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

¶ *A Prayer for a sick Seaman.*

O Most great and glorious Lord, God of our Salvation, the Ends of the Earth, and of them that remain in the broad Sea; under whose powerful Protection we are alike secure, in every Place, and without whose Providence over us, we can nowhere be in Safety; look down, we beseech thee, upon us thy unworthy Servants, who are called to behold thy Wonders in the Deep, and to perform our several Duties in the great Waters.

Thou art our Refuge and Strength, a very present Help in Trouble, and therefore we fly unto thee for Success in all our Needs; but in particular now we come unto thee, for Mercy on our distressed Brother, whom thou hast been pleased to visit with the Rod of Affliction.

The Waves of Death, O Lord, encompass him about, and the Sorrows of Hell take hold upon him, 2 Sam. 22. 5, 6.

O leave him not to himself, nor let him be given over to a Spirit of Slumber and Darkness, but open thou his Eyes, that he may behold the wondrous Things of thy Law, and help him in all Things rightly to state his Accounts with thee his God; that so from the Sick-

ness

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ness of *his* Body *he* may find Health and Salvation to *his* Soul, which is the great End of all thy righteous Judgments and Afflictions that are sent upon us.

Let *him* seriously consider, and reflect within *himself*, from this small Expression of thy Displeasure, *what a dreadful thing it is to fall into the Hands of the living God*; and learn from thence, for ever after, if it shall please thee to raise *him* up again, to preserve a more awful Sense of thy divine Majesty upon *his* Spirit, *and to live more soberly, righteously, and godlily, in this present World.*

We know, O Lord, by sad Experience, that *many are the Enemies of Peace*, and that *the whole World lieth in Wickedness*; but let *him* not follow a Multitude to do Evil, nor give his Consent to the Enticement of Sinners, but being perfectly redeemed from all vain Conversation, and renewed in the Spirit of his Mind, let him walk before thee with a perfect Heart, and spend the Residue of *his* Days in thy Faith and Fear.

Or if otherwise thou hast determin'd concerning *him*, O be pleased to give *him* sufficient Grace, and Strength, and Time, to make his Calling and Election sure, before he goes hence, and be no more seen. Revive *his* drooping Spirits, fortify *his* Heart, and as
he

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he decays in the outer, strengthen *him* in the inner Man, by setting before *him* the Hopes of a blessed Immortality, *as an Anchor of the Soul, both sure and stedfast.*

In fine, O Lord, if thou art pleased to take *him* hence, be thou *his* Life in Death, and conduct *him* safe from the troublesome Waves of the World, into the *still Waters of Comfort*, even to that blessed Haven of Felicity, where he may no more *be tossed with the Tempest of Affliction*, nor in danger of *making Shipwreck of his Faith*, but may rest secure from the *stormy Wind and Tempest*, and possess *his Vessel in Sanctification and Honour*, in Peace and Security, and a full Fruition of Happiness in the Kingdom of Heaven, for evermore. *Amen.*

¶ *A Prayer for a sick Soldier or Seaman.*

O Most mighty Lord, the Fountain of Health and Life, Strength and Courage, the Aid and Support of all that fly unto thee for Succour, with whom is no Respect of Persons, but every one that feareth thee (whether he be rich or poor, learn'd or unlearn'd) is accepted of thee, we beseech thee mercifully to look down upon our poor *Brother*, who now is fallen under the Rod of thy heavy Displeasure.

We

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We know, O Lord, that all thy Judgments are principally intended for our good, in the end, by the Reformation of our Lives and Manners; and therefore we most humbly beseech thee, to let thy present Judgment have that good Effect upon our *Brother*, that he may lead the rest of his Life as a faithful Soldier of Jesus Christ, and not continue to harden *his* Heart, like *Pharaoh*, against all the powerful and repeated Instances of thy Mercies and Judgments towards *him*.

If thou hast design'd this Sickness shall terminate in *his* Death, O be pleased to fit and prepare *him* for it; or if otherwise in Mercy thou hast determin'd to spare *him*, O let *him* not return to any of *his* former sinful Courses, but let *him* always keep in mind the Promise that *he* made to thee in Baptism, of renouncing the World, the Flesh and the Devil, and which *he* now again heartily renews (as we hope) in this *his* Day of Visitation.

We know, O Lord, that many Temptations will unavoidably assault *him*, in the state of Life wherein *he* is engag'd, and therefore we most humbly beseech thee, to give him such a Portion of thy blessed Spirit, as may enable *him* to fight with as much Resolution and Courage against *his* spiritual

P

Enemies,

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Enemies, as the Nature of *his* Post obliges *him* to do, upon a just Occasion, against *his* temporal; ever remembering that the greatest of Conquests, is that which is made upon our selves, and that no Victory is so truly brave and honourable, as that which is obtain'd over our Lusts and brutish Affections.

Wherefore give *him* Grace, we beseech thee, O Lord, *to abhor that which is Evil, and to cleave to that which is Good*; let all Blasphemy and Prophaneness, all Riot and Drunkenness, and Luxury, and Lasciviousness, be far from *him*, and let *him* carefully follow the Rule our Saviour hath set *him*, *of doing Violence to no Man, accusing no Man falsely, and being content with his own Wages*; so that having put on the whole Armour of God, he may be able to stand against the Wiles of the Devil; and whenever thou shalt be pleased to put an end to his Warfare (either now or hereafter) *he* may chearfully resign up *his* Soul into thy Hands, in those sweet and comfortable Words of the Apostle, *I have fought a good Fight, I have finished my Course, I have kept the Faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge shall give unto all those that love and fear him, and put their Trust in his Mercy.* Amen.

¶ A

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¶ *A Prayer for a Person condemn'd to die.*

From Dr.
Inet.

O Most just and holy Lord God, who bringest to Light the hidden Things of Darkneſs, and by thy juſt and wiſe Providence, doſt bring Sin to Shame and Punishment; diſappointing the Hopes of wicked Men; viſiting their Sins upon them in this preſent Life, that thou mayſt deter others from the evil of their Ways, and ſave their ſouls in the Day of our Lord Jeſus: O Lord! in Mercy look down upon this thy Servant, who now is before thee to confeſs thy Juſtice in making *him* a ſad Example to others. *He* with Sorrow and Shame confeſſes, it would be juſt with thee, ſhould Death eternal be the Wages of *his* Sins, and everlaſting Sorrow the Re- compence of *his* Iniquity. *He* has, we confeſs, O Lord! ſlighted thy Mercy, and abuſed thy Goodneſs, and has therefore no reaſon to expect any other than to be made an everlaſting Sacrifice to thy Juſtice. When thou haſt by the Miniſtry of thy Word, and Interpoſition of thy Providence call'd *him* to Repentance, *he* has ſtopt *his* Ears, and ſlighted thine Admonitions. O! how juſt therefore would it be now with thee to ſtop thine Ears, and not to hear *him* in

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this Day of Trouble, when Distress and Anguish is come upon *him*! How oft has *he* made a mock of thy tender Offers of Grace and Mercy? How just would it therefore be with thee to mock now *his* Calamity is come upon *him*, and when thy just Judgments have overtaken *him*? *He* confesses that *he* hath hardened *his* Heart, notwithstanding all thy Importunities to *him* to repent and live: That *he* has still gone on from one Wickedness to another, with greediness acting over the Works of Darkness, and even hating to be reformed: That *he* has notoriously broken *his* Baptismal Vows and Engagements, and thereby given Encouragement to the Enemies of our most holy Faith to blaspheme and speak ill of it: And that on these Accounts *he* has nothing to expect but that thou shouldst deal with *him* according to *his* Sins, and reward *him* according to the Multitude of *his* Offences. But thou, O God! hast been pleased to declare, that with thee is Mercy and plenteous Redemption: That thou willest not the Death of a Sinner, but rather that *he* should repent and live. Thou hast so loved the World, that thou gavest thy only begotten Son, that whosoever would believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting Life. O

let

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let not *him*, whom we are now commending to thy Mercy, for ever perish and be lost. Tho' *he* be one of the chiefest of Sinners, yet for thine own sake, who delightest in shewing Mercy, for thy Son's sake who came on purpose to call Sinners to Repentance, and shed even his Blood for the remission of Sins: Have Mercy upon a poor Wretch, that owns *he* deserves eternally to die. Pardon and forgive *him*, and let *him* find Mercy in this *his* time of need. Pardon, we earnestly entreat thee, *his* wilful and *his* heedless Follies, *his* Errors and *his* crying and notorious Sins; particularly that for which he is now to die. O Lord! thou God of Mercy, who art abundant in Goodness, have pity on the Work of thine own Hands: Look not on *him* as *he* is polluted with *his* own Sins, and made a partaker of other Mens: But have a respect to *him* thro' *his* Merits, who came to take away the Sins of the World. Bury *his* Sins in *his* Grave, and however they may rise in this World to shame *him*, let them never rise in that which is to come, to condemn *him*; and whatever *he* suffers here, let *him* be blessed hereafter, among them, whose Unrighteousness is forgiven, and whose Sin is covered. However Men may in the Execution of Justice, and to deter

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others from being guilty of the like Wick-
edness, kill *his* Body: Let neither *his* Bo-
dy, nor *his* Soul be destroy'd in Hell, but
let *both* be eternally saved, for *Jesus Christ*
his sake, who died to save Sinners. *A-*
men.



The

The Ministration of Publick BAPTISM of Infants, to be used in Churches.

- ¶ *The People are to be admonished, that it is most convenient that Baptism should not be administered but upon Sundays, and other Holy-days, when the most number of People come together; as well for that the Congregation there present may testify the receiving of them that be newly baptized into the Number of Christ's Church; as also because in the Baptism of Infants, every Man present may be put in remembrance of his own Profession made to God in his Baptism. For which cause also it is expedient that Baptism be ministered in the vulgar Tongue. Nevertheless (if Necessity so require) Children may be baptized upon any other Day.*
- ¶ *And Note, That there shall be for every Male Child to be baptized, two Godfathers and one Godmother; and for every Female, one Godfather and two Godmothers.*
- ¶ *When there are Children to be baptized, the Parents shall give knowledge thereof over Night, or in the Morning before the beginning of Morning Prayer, to the Curate. And then the Godfathers and Godmothers, and the People with the Children, must be ready at the Font, either immediately after the last Lesson at Morning Prayer, or else immediately after the last Lesson at Evening Prayer, as the Curate by his Discretion shall appoint. And the Priest coming to the Font (which is then to be filled with pure Water) and standing there, shall say,*

Q. **H**ATH this Child been already Baptized or no?

¶ *If they answer No, then shall the Priest proceed as follows,*

DEarly beloved, forasmuch as all Men are conceived and born in Sin, and that our Saviour Christ saith, None can enter into the Kingdom of God, except he be regenerate and born anew of water and of the Holy Ghost; I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous Mercy he will grant *this Child* that Thing which by Nature *he* cannot have; that *he* may be baptized with Water and the holy Ghost, and received into Christ's holy Church, and be made *a lively Member* of the same.

¶ Then shall the Priest say,

Let us Pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy great Mercy didst save *Noah* and his Family in the Ark from perishing by Water, and also didst safely lead the Children of *Israel* thy People through the Red Sea, figuring thereby thy holy Baptism; and by the Baptism of thy well beloved Son Jesus Christ in the River *Jordan*, didst sanctifie Water to the mystical washing away of Sin; We beseech thee for thine infinite Mercies that thou wilt mercifully look upon *this Child*; wash *him*, and sanctifie *him* with the Holy Ghost, that *he* being deli

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vered from thy Wrath, may be received into the Ark of Christ's Church; and being stedfast in Faith, joyful through Hope, and rooted in Charity, may so pass the Waves of this troublesome World, that finally *he* may come to the Land of everlasting Life; there to reign with thee World without end, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALmighty and Immortal God, the Aid of all that need, the Helper of all that flee to thee for Succour, the Life of them that believe, and the Resurrection of the Dead; we call upon thee for *this Infant*, that *he* coming to thy holy Baptism, may receive remission of *his* Sins by spiritual Regeneration. Receive *him*, O Lord, as thou hast promised by thy well beloved Son, saying, Ask, and ye shall have; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: So give now unto us that ask; let us that seek, find; open the gate unto us that knock; that *this Infant* may enjoy the everlasting Benediction of thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal Kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest stand up, and the Priest shall say,*

Hear the Words of the Gospel written by
St. Mark, in the 10th Chapter, at the
13th Verse. They

THEY brought young Children to Christ, that he should touch them; and his Disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the Kingdom of God. Verily, I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little Child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his Arms, put his Hands upon them, and blessed them.

¶ *After the Gospel is read, the Minister shall make this brief Exhortation upon the Words of the Gospel.*

BEloved, ye hear in this Gospel, the Words of our Saviour Christ, that he commanded the Children to be brought unto him; how he blamed those that would have kept them from him, how he exhorted all Men to follow their Innocency. Ye perceive how by his outward Gesture and Deed he declared his good Will towards them; for he embraced them in his Arms, he laid his Hands upon them, and blessed them. Doubt ye not therefore, but earnestly believe, that he will likewise favourably receive *this* present *Infant*, that he will embrace *him* with the Arms of his Mercy,

cy, that he will give unto *him* the Blessing of eternal Life, and make *him* partaker of his everlasting Kingdom. Wherefore we being thus perswaded of the good Will of our heavenly Father towards *this Infant*, declared by his Son Jesus Christ, and nothing doubting but that he favourably alloweth this charitable Work of our's, in bringing *this Infant* to his holy Baptism, let us faithfully and devoutly give Thanks unto him, and say,

Almighty and everlasting God, heavenly Father, we give thee humble Thanks that thou hast vouchsafed to call us to the knowledge of thy Grace and Faith in thee; Increase this Knowledge, and confirm this Faith in us evermore. Give thy holy Spirit to *this Infant*, that *he* may be born again, and be made *an Heir* of everlasting Salvation, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest speak unto the Godfathers and Godmothers in this wise.*

Dearly beloved, ye have brought *this Child* here to be baptized, ye have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive *him*, to release *him* of
his

his Sins, to sanctifie *him* with the Holy Ghost, to give *him* the Kingdom of Heaven, and everlasting Life. Ye have heard also that our Lord Jesus Christ hath promised also in his Gospel, to grant all these things that ye have prayed for: which Promise he for his part will most surely keep and perform. Wherefore after this Promise made by Christ, *this Infant* must also faithfully for *his* part, promise by you that are *his* Sureties (until *he* come of Age to take it upon *himself*) that *he* will renounce the Devil and all his Works, and constantly believe God's holy Word, and obediently keep his Commandments.

I demand therefore,

DOST thou in the Name of this Child renounce the Devil and all his Works, the vain Pomp and Glory of the World, with all covetous Desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the Flesh, so that thou wilt not follow, nor be led by them?

Ans. I renounce them all.

Minister.

DOST thou believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth?

And

And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son our Lord? And that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin *Mary*; that he suffered under *Pontius Pilate*, was crucified, dead and buried; that he went down into Hell, and also did rise again the third Day; that he ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right Hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence shall come again at the end of the World to judge the quick and the dead?

And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholick Church; the Communion of Saints; the Remission of Sins; the Resurrection of the Flesh; and everlasting Life after Death?

Ans^w. All this I stedfastly believe.

Minister.

WILT thou then be baptized in this Faith?

Ans^w. That is my Desire.

Minister.

WILT thou then obediently keep God's holy Will and Commandments, and walk in the same all the Days of thy Life?

Ans^w. I will.

¶ *Then*

¶ Then shall the Priest say,

O Merciful God, grant that the old *Adam* in *this Child* may be so buried, that the new Man may be raised up in *him*.
Amen.

Grant that all carnal Affections may die in *him*, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *him*. *Amen.*

Grant that *he* may have Power and Strength to have Victory, and to triumph against the Devil, the World, and the Flesh.
Amen.

Grant that whosoever is here dedicated to thee by our Office and Ministry, may also be endued with heavenly Virtues, and everlastingly rewarded, through thy Mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live and govern all Things, World without end.
Amen.

A Almighty and everlasting God, whose most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our Sins, did shed out of his most precious Side both Water and Blood, and gave Commandment to his Disciples, that they should go teach all Nations, and baptize them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Regard, we beseech thee, the Supplications

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plications of thy Congregation; sanctifie this Water to the mystical washing away of Sin; and grant that *this Child* now to be baptized therein, may receive the fulness of thy Grace, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful and elect Children, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the Priest shall take the Child into his Hands, and shall say to the Godfathers and Godmothers,*

Name this Child.

And then naming it after them (if they shall certifie him that the Child may well endure it) he shall dip it in the Water discreetly and wearily, saying,

N I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

¶ *But if they certifie that the Child is weak, it shall suffice to pour Water upon it, saying the aforesaid Words,*

N I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest say,*

WE receive this Child into the Congregation of Christ's Flock, * and do sign *him* with the Sign of the Cross, in token that hereafter *he* shall not be ashamed to confess the Faith of Christ

* *Here the Priest shall make a Cross upon the Child's Forehead.*

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curcified, and manfully to fight under his Banner, against Sin, the World, and the Devil, and to continue Christ's faithful Soldier and Servant unto *his* Live's end. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest say,*

SEeing now, dearly beloved Brethren, that *this Child* is regenerate and grafted into the Body of Christ's Church, let us give Thanks unto Almighty God for these Benefits, and with one accord make our Prayers unto him, that *this Child* may lead the rest of *his* Life according to this beginning.

¶ *Then shall be said, All kneeling,*

OUR Father, which art in Heaven; Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this Day our daily Bread. And forgive us our Trespases, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into Temptation; but deliver us from Evil. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest say,*

WE yield thee hearty Thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate *this Infant* with thy holy Spirit; to receive *him* for thine own
Child

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Child by Adoption, and to incorporate *him* into thy holy Church. And humbly we beseech thee to grant, that *he* being dead unto Sin, and living unto Righteousness, and being buried with Christ in his Death, may crucifie the old Man, and utterly abolish the whole Body of Sin; and that as *he* is made *Partaker* of the Death of thy Son, *he* may also be *Partaker* of his Resurrection; so that finally with the residue of thy holy Church, *he* may be an *Inheritor* of thine everlasting Kingdom, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ Then all standing up, the Priest shall say to the Godfathers and Godmothers, this Exhortation following.

FOrasmuch as *this Child* hath promised by you *his* Sureties, to renounce the Devil and all his Works, to believe in God, and to serve him; ye must remember that it is your Parts and Duties to see that *this Infant* be taught, so soon as *he* shall be able to learn, what a solemn Vow, Promise and Profession *he* hath here made by you. And that *he* may know these Things the better, ye shall call upon *him* to hear Sermons, and chiefly ye shall provide that *he* may learn the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the ten Commandments in the vulgar Tongue, and all other things which a Christian ought to know

Q

and

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and believe to his Soul's Health ; and that *this Child* may be vertuously brought up to lead a godly and christian Life, remembring always, that Baptism doth represent unto us our Profession, which is, to follow the Example of our Saviour Christ, and to be made like unto him ; that as he died and rose again for us, so should we who are baptized, die from Sin, and rise again unto Righteousness, continually mortifying all our evil and corrupt Affections, and daily proceeding in all Virtue and Godliness of living.

¶ *Then shall he add and say,*

YE are to take Care that *this Child* be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him, so soon as *he* can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the ten Commandments in the vulgar Tongue, and be further instructed in the Church Catechism set forth for that purpose.

IT is certain by God's Word, that Children which are baptized, dying before they commit actual Sin, are undoubtedly saved.

TO take away all Scruple concerning the Use of the Sign of the Cross in Baptism ; the true Explication thereof, and the just Reasons for the retaining of it, may be seen in the xxxth Canon, first published in the Year MDCIV.

The

The Ministration of Private BAPTISM of Children in Houses.

¶ The Curate of every Parish shall often admonish the People that they defer not the Baptism of their Children longer than the first or second Sunday next after their Birth, or other Holy-day falling between, unless upon a great and reasonable Cause, to be approved by the Curate.

¶ And also they shall warn them, that without like great Cause and Necessity, they procure not their Children to be baptized at home in their Houses. But when need shall compel them so to do, then Baptism shall be administred on this fashion.

¶ First, Let the Minister of the Parish (or in his Absence, any other lawful Minister that can be procured) with them that are present call upon God, and say the Lord's Prayer, and so many of the Collects appointed to be said before in the Form of Publick Baptism, as the time and present exigence will suffer. And then the Child being named by some one that is present, the Minister shall pour Water upon it, saying these Words.

N I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

¶ Then all kneeling down, the Minister shall give Thanks unto God and say,

WE yield thee hearty Thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate this Infant with thy holy

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holy Spirit ; to receive *him* for thine own Child by Adoption, and to incorporate *him* into thy Holy Church. And we humbly beseech thee to grant, that as *he* is now made Partaker of the Death of thy Son, so *he* may be also of his Resurrection : And that finally with the Residue of thy Saints *he* may inherit thine everlasting Kingdom, through the same, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *And let them not doubt, but that the Child so baptized is lawfully and sufficiently baptized, and ought not to be baptized again. Yet nevertheless, if the Child, which is after this sort baptized, do afterwards live, it is expedient that it be brought into the Church, to the intent that if the Minister of the same Parish did himself baptize that Child, the Congregation may be certified of the true Form of Baptism, by him privately before used,*



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F I N I S.

